

**Town of Westwood**  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

John Rogers, Chairman  
Stephen David  
Helen Gordon  
Vesna Maneva  
Todd Sullivan  
Todd Weston



Karon Skinner Catrone, Conservation Agent  
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**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes: Conservation Commission Meeting Date:  
Wednesday, January 12, 2022  
Remote Meeting**

**7:00 p.m. - Call to Order**

The Westwood Conservation Commission meeting of Wednesday January 12, 2022, at 7:00 PM. is being held through Zoom due to the COVID-19 state of emergency and in compliance with the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law MGL C. 30A, §18 and the Governor's March 23 Emergency Order imposing limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place.

**Please click the link below to join the webinar:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89785947911?pwd=czZkZVY2azFCamNqTWgvcXJFRjdZdz09>

**Passcode: 553784**

**Or Telephone:**

**833 548 0282 (Toll Free) or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free) or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free)  
Webinar ID: 897 8594 7911**

The following members are present: Stephen David (acting chairperson), John Rogers, Todd Weston, and Vesna Maneva. Member Todd Sullivan is absent. Conservation Agent, Karon Skinner Catrone was also present.

Mr. David announces this meeting is being recorded.

**Approval of Minutes:** Consideration of Minutes for Meeting of October 13, 2021, October 27, 2021, November 10, 2021 and December 8, 2021.

**Motion made by Ms. Maneva, seconded by Mr. Weston, to approve the minutes of October 13, 2021, October 27, 2021, November 10, 2021 and December 8, 2021. Unanimous.**

**Action Items:**

1. 375 University Ave. – DEP #338-0680 – Request to Withdraw Notice of Intent – Ms. Catrone states the applicant has requested this action item be continued to the January 26, 2022 meeting.

**Motion made by Ms. Maneva, seconded by Mr. Weston, to continue this action item to January 26, 2022 at the request of the applicant. Unanimous.**

2. 108 Birch Tree Drive – DEP #338-0398 – Request for Certificate of Compliance – Ms. Catrone states she visited the site in mid-November and the project appeared to follow the approved plan. Bittersweet was observed growing along the wetland side of the property. At Ms. Catrone's request the owner removed the Bittersweet the next day. She explains the project was completed in 2016 and the engineering firm that submitted the proposed plan is no longer in business. The owner is asking to waive the requirement for the as-built plan and letter of significant compliance. The Commission agrees to waive these requirements.

**Motion made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Weston, to issue a Certificate of Compliance. Unanimous.**

3. 92 Pine Lane – DEP - #338-0722 – Request for Minor Modification – Ms. Catrone states the owner is requesting a minor modification to the approved plan to canter-lever the deck two feet.

The Commission agrees that this is not a significant change to the approved plan.

**Motion made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Weston, to issue a Minor Modification to allow the applicant to canter-lever the deck 2 feet. Unanimous.**

**Public Hearings:**

**790 Gay Street – Notice of Intent - DEP #338-0725 – Town of Westwood** – continued from 12/8/21

The Commission opened the public hearing and reviewed copies of the Notice of Intent for 790 Gay Street for the proposed construction of a new elementary school, including the following:

1. WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent, submitted by Nitsch Engineering of 2 Center Plaza, Suite 430, Boston,

MA 02108, including seventy (70) pages;

2. Plan titled “WESTWOOD HANLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 790 GAY STREET WESTWOOD, MA” dated August 18, 2021, sheets C0.00, C1.00, C2.00, C2.01, C2.02, C2.03, C2.04, C3.00, C3.01, C3.03, C3.02, C3.04 and C3.05, including fifty (50) sheets.
3. Peer review comments from BETA Group, Re: 790 Gay Street Environmental Impact and Design Review Update Review, dated January 6, 2022, including seventeen (17) pages,

The project proposes to demolish the existing school building & construct new school building, parking lots, access roads and walkways, soccer field, little league baseball field, outdoor classrooms, and playground area. The proposal also includes earth material movement EIDR for earth work.

School Committee member Maya Plotkin, Chair of the School Building Committee introduced the Project Manager Rob Fitzgerald and summarized the project. Mr. Fitzgerald displays the landscape plan and explains the playfield has been widened and the roadway extended. There have been modifications to the fencing and erosion control. Frack tanks for dewatering and a geothermal well have been added. Stormwater galleys have been relocated (shifted to the west).

Ms. Catrone states the Commission prefers compost sock rather than straw wattles.

Debra Myers states the slope will be 2.5 to 1-3 to 1 slope. Shade tolerant seed should be used on the slope.

Mr. Rogers asks when the wall will be constructed. The wall would help protect the wetland during construction.

Mr. Fitzgerald states he does not want to commit to a time the wall will be constructed. That could cause a potential for delay.

**Motion made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Weston, to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions with the condition the wall be constructed as early as feasible. Unanimous.**

#### **534 Hartford Street – Request for Determination - Williams**

The Commission opened the public hearing and reviewed copies of the Request for Determination of Applicability for 534 Hartford Street, including the following:

1. WPA Form 1 – Request for Determination of Applicability, submitted by Scott Williams, owner of 534 Hartford Street dated 11/30/21, including seven (7) pages;
2. Plan – GIS image, including one (1) sheet;

Mr. Williams is present and states he would like to fence in his rear yard for a dog. The fence will be chain link with vinyl and will be placed in front of the tree line.

Ms. Maneva request the fence be raised 4 to 6” to allow for critter crossing.

Mr. Weston would like an actual measurement from the proposed fence line to the stream prior.

**Motion made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Weston to issue a negative determination #3 with the condition the distance from the proposed fence to the wetland is submitted to the Commission and the fence be raised 4” – 6” to allow for critter crossing. Unanimous.**

#### **55 Westdale Road – Request for Determination - DeCoste**

The Commission opened the public hearing and reviewed copies of the Request for Determination of Applicability for 55 Westdale Road, including the following:

1. WPA Form 1 – Request for Determination of Applicability, submitted by P. J. De Bernardo of Gibraltar Pools Corp., 435 Boston Street, Topsfield MA 01983, representing Gail DeCoste, owner of 55 Westdale Road, including five (5) pages;
2. Plan titled “55 WESTDALE ROAD PROPOSED 12’ X 24’ E.O.W. ABOVE GROUND POOL W/CANTILEVERED SAFETY LEDGE & RAIL BARRIER (OVERALL AIRSPACE 16 X 32)”, dated 6/4/21 drawn by Olde Stone Plot Plan Service Co., P.O. Box 1166 Lakeville, MA 02347, including one (1) sheet;

Present is P.J. De Bernardo of Gibraltar Pools Corp. representing Gail DeCoste, owner of 55 Westdale Road. Mr. De Bernardo states the owner would like to install a 12’ x 24’ above ground pool in the rear yard. The owner has opted for an above ground pool to avoid the major exaction that an in-ground pool would require. Sod will be removed and a locally sourced washed mason sand base will be installed. The pool will be assembled on top of this material. There will be no backwashing of treated pool water into the yard.

Ms. Maneva asks if this lot has a 35 or 10 foot no disturb area.

Ms. Catrone states this lot has a 10 foot no disturb area.

**Motion made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Ms. Maneva to close the hearing and issue a negative determination #3 with the condition a statement be provided to the Commission describing the material that will be used under the pool. Unanimous.**

**20 Wildwood Drive – Notice of Intent - DEP #338-0730 – Chen** – continued to 1/26/22

Ms. Catrone states the applicant has requested a continuance to January 26, 2022 to allow the Planning Board review by BETA to be completed.

**Motion made by Ms. Maneva, seconded by Mr. Weston, to continue this action item to January 26, 2022 at the request of the applicant. Unanimous.**

**450 Canton Street – Stormwater Notice of Intent - SMP #0? – Marino Land Dev** – continued from 12/8/21

The Commission opened the public hearing and reviewed copies of the Stormwater Notice of Intent for 450 Canton Street for new construction, including the following:

1. Stormwater Land Disturbance application, submitted by Daniel Merrikin of Legacy Engineering of 730 Main Street, Suite 2C, Millis, MA 02054, dated 1/24/22, including two (2) pages;
2. Stormwater Report also submitted by Daniel Merrikin of Legacy Engineering, dated October 28, 2021, including 137 pages,
3. Peer review comments from BETA Group, Re: 450 Canton Street Land Disturbance (Stormwater) peer review, dated January 6, 2022, including five (5) pages,
4. Plan titled “450 CANTON STREET SITE PLAN OF LAND IN WESTWOOD, MA”, dated 12/21/21, revised 12/21/21 drawn by Daniel Merrikin of Legacy Engineering, including two (2) sheet;

Present is Daniel Merrikin of Legacy Engineering requesting a Land Disturbance Permit for the construction of a single-family home at 450 Canton Street. Mr. Merrikin states he has been working with BETA Group on the peer review. The owner plans to use the existing driveway for access and then remove the driveway and construct a driveway off Partridge Street. The existing single-family home will be demolished and the new single-family home constructed in the back of the lot.

Ms. Maneva asks how many trees over 4 inches DBH will need to be removed.

Mr. Merrikin states he is not sure.

Mr. Rogers asks that he survey the trees to be removed and come up with a number of new trees consistent with the Commission’s regulations. He states this can be worked out with Ms. Catrone.

**Motion made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Ms. Maneva, to close the hearing and issue a Land Disturbance Permit after the tree calculations have been received by the Commission.**

**Discussion Items:**

1. Commissioners’ observations around town and next scheduled site visits
2. Current significant projects
3. Reserved for topics not reasonably anticipated to be discussed
4. Actively make buyers, property owners and realtors aware of WPA, wetland ordinance and stormwater ordinance
5. Brief Select Board on Concom and need for Conservation Land Management Plan

**Upcoming Meeting:** 1/26/2022 REMOTE PARTICIPATION

**Note:** Agenda items and order subject to change

**Motion made by Mr. David, seconded by Ms. Maneva, to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous.**