

Town of Westwood
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Stephen David, Chairman
Todd Sullivan
Vesna Maneva
Debra Odeh
Grace Weller
R. J. Sheer
Elias Fares



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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes: Conservation Commission Meeting Date: October 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Location: Champagne Meeting Room, 50 Carby Street, Westwood, MA

7:00 p.m. Call to Order

The Conservation Commission meeting of October 11, 2023 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Champagne Meeting Room, 50 Carby Street, with the following members present: Debra Odeh, Todd Sullivan, R.J. Sheer and Vesna Maneva. Members Grace Weller and Elias Fares are absent. Also present is Karon Skinner Catrone, Conservation Agent.

Mr. Sullivan, acting chairperson, announces this meeting is being recorded.

- Minutes to be Approved – February 8, 2023, March 22, 2023, June 14, 2023, September 13, 2023 and September 27, 2023.

Action Items:

1. 472 Summer Street – DEP #338-0716 - Request for Certificate of Compliance – Anderson – Present are Edmond Spruhan of Spruhan Engineering, Rosemary Traini of The Law Offices of Rosemary Traini LLC, and Scott Goddard of Goddard Consulting LLC.

Ms. Catrone states this request for Certificate of Compliance was continued from the September 27, 2023 hearing to allow the applicant to install plantings to replace those that did not survive. The replacement plantings have been installed but they were planted very close to each other. The applicant has done all that they can to catch the runoff from the lot. There is a driveway running down the side of the lot which still creates runoff but this driveway is not on the applicant's property.

Ms. Odeh and Ms. Maneva state they would like to do a site visit.

Motion made by Ms. Odeh, seconded by Ms. Maneva, to continue this hearing to October 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm at 50 Carby Street to allow the Commission members to do a site visit on October 13, 2023 at 4:30 pm. Unanimous.

2. 32 Autumn Drive – DEP #338-0687- Request for Certificate of Compliance – Ms. Catrone states the wetland boundary markers and plantings have been installed, the roof drainage is being directed to the ground and the lot is stabilized. She shows pictures of the lot.

Motion made by Ms. Maneva, seconded by Ms. Odeh, to issue a Certificate of Compliance for DEP file #338-0687. Unanimous.

3. Update Rules and Regulations – **Motion made by Ms. Odeh, seconded by Ms. Maneva, to continue the Action Item to update rules and regulations to October 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm at 50 Carby Street. Unanimous.**

4. 6 Recess Way – DEP #338-0711 – Request for Minor modification – Joyce – Ms. Catrone states the applicant is requesting a minor modification to install a subsurface infiltration system at 6 Recess Way instead of the approved basin.

Ms. Catrone states she received an engineer's letter stating from the storage capacity for the subsurface system is the same as the storage capacity of the approved basin.

The Commission reads the letter.

Motion made by Ms. Maneva, seconded by Ms. Odeh, to approve the change of the approved basin to a subsurface infiltration system as a minor modification. Unanimous.

Public Hearings:

78 Gay Street - RDA – Smith

Tree removal

The Commission opened the public hearing and reviewed copies of the Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for 78 Gay Street, including the following:

1. DEP form 1 Request for Determination of Applicability submitted on September 13, 2023 by Alice Smith, including twelve (12) pages;
2. Plan – GIS plan, including two (2) sheets;

Present are Alice and Jeffery Smith, owners of 78 Gay Street, who are requesting a negative determination to allow the applicants to remove two mature trees in the 100-foot buffer zone and one mature tree outside of the 100-foot buffer zone.

Ms. Smith states one tree in the 100-foot buffer zone is showing signs of deterioration in the trunk. The second tree is leaning toward the neighbor's house.

Mr. Sullivan states he visited the site today and agrees these trees are hazard trees and should be removed.

Motion made by Ms. Maneva, seconded by Ms. Odeh to issue a Negative Determination #3 to allow the applicant to remove the two trees in the 100-foot buffer zone. Unanimous.

100 Farm Lane- Notice of Intent DEP #338-0761 – Vernon/Culgin – Continued to 10/25/23

Addition

Motion made by Ms. Odeh, seconded by Ms. Maneva, to continue this hearing to October 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm at 50 Carby Street. Unanimous.

42 Mill Street – Notice of Intent – DEP # 338-0756 – Delapa – Continued to 10/25/23

Dam repair and access road – Continue from 9/27/23

Motion made by Mr. Sheer, seconded by Ms. Odeh, to continue this hearing to October 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm at 50 Carby Street to allow BETA to continue the peer review for the dam repair. Unanimous.

Discussion Items continued:

1. Potential Tree policy/ordinance/bylaw
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/tree-by-law-and-ordinance-guide/download>
2. Assure Select Board's awareness of above items, clarify oversight of the Town's existing conservation lands and discuss potential Conservation Land Management Plan
<https://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/home/showpublisheddocument/7288/637012120637130000>
3. Commissioners' observations around town and next scheduled site visits
4. Update on significant projects and other topics not reasonably anticipated
5. Actively make buyers, property owners and realtors aware of WPA, wetland ordinance and stormwater

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

Upcoming Meeting: 11/8/23 – in person meeting

Note: Agenda items and order subject to change