

Town of Westwood
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

John Rogers, Chairman
Stephen David
Vesna Maneva
Debra Odeh
Todd Sullivan
Todd Weston



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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes: Conservation Commission Meeting Date:
Wednesday, May 11, 2022
Remote Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Call to Order

The Westwood Conservation Commission meeting of Wednesday May 11, 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/87226788082?pwd=SXJ4a3YzMXVmdHdSWDM2eVVSaWg5dz09>

Passcode: 580854

Or Telephone:

877 853 5257 (Toll Free) or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0282 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 872 2678 8082

The following members are present: John Rogers, chairperson, Todd Sullivan, Stephen David, Vesna Maneva, and Grace Weller. Member Debra Odeh is absent. Conservation Agent, Karon Skinner Catrone is also present.

Mr. Rogers announces this meeting is being recorded.

Approval of Minutes: Consideration of Minutes for Meeting of January 12, 2022, January 26, 2022, February 16, 2022, March 9, 2022, March 23, 2022 and April 13, 2022.

Motion made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Ms. Weller, to approve the minutes of April 27, 2022. Unanimous.

Action Items:

1. 7 Little Boot Lane – DEP #338-0635 – Request for Certificate of Compliance – Champion
Ms. Catrone states this Action Item was continued from the last meeting to allow the applicant to make revisions to the as-built plan. The Commission has questions for the applicant but there is no one present. The Commission agrees they would like someone present at the next meeting to answer their questions. **Motion made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to continue this Action Item to the June 8, 2022 meeting at 7:00 pm. Unanimous.**
2. Islington Center – DEP #338-0658 – Request for Certificate of Compliance – Petruzzello
The applicant was required to remove invasive plants and replant the area under Order of Conditions DEP #338-0658. The applicant has submitted a final report and is requesting a Certificate of Compliance. Ms. Maneva states she and Ms. Catrone visited the site before the meeting and found most of the shrubs and a good cover of grassed. We also found knotweed, Yellow rocket, Garlic mustard (invasive) and trash on the site. She suggests the invasive treatment continue for one more year. **Motion made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to continue invasive plant treatment for one more year and readdress this request in June of 2023. A report from the wetland specialist is required at that time. Unanimous.**
3. 11 Fox Meadow Drive – DEP #338-0697 – Request for Minor Modification – Asaad
The applicant is requesting the removal of seven (7) trees in the rear yard of 11 Fox Meadow Drive. The tree removal is being requested for safety reasons. Ms. Catrone states work is still in progress on the site and the erosion control is not functioning properly. **Motion made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Rogers to allow the removal of the trees as shown on the plan. The applicant must replace these trees with seven (7) native replacement trees. Unanimous.**

Public Hearings:

Carby Street Municipal Building • 50 Carby Street • Westwood, MA 02090

200 Nahatan Street – Request for Determination – Town of Westwood – continued from 4/27/22

Upgrade High School Practice Field

The Commission opened the discussion and reviewed copies of the Request for Determination for 200 Nahatan Street, including the following:

1. WPA Form 1 – Request for Determination of Applicability by the Town of Westwood, including thirteen (13) pages;
3. Plan – Sketch plan, including one (1) sheet;

Ms. Catrone states the town is proposing the removal and disposal of existing synthetic turf and installation of new synthetic turf on the high school practice field. Removal and disposal of top layer of bituminous pavement on the pathway and installation of new pavement. Refurbish the existing chain link fence. Removal of lawn area and installation of concrete pads and base material for bleachers. Loam and seed any disturbed lawn area. There will be no new impervious associated with this project.

Motion made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve as a negative determination #3 with the condition compost socks are install around the rear and sides of the project prior to start of work. Unanimous.

6 Willett Pond Drive – Request for Determination – Ritzenberg – continued from 3/25/22

Replace deck

The Commission opened the public hearing and reviewed copies of the Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for the replacement of a deck, includes the following:

1. WPA Form 1 – Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Jeremy Ritzenberg, owner dated 2/22/22, including ten (10) pages;
2. Plan – Mortgage Inspection Plan drawn by James Patrick Smith of New England Land Survey of 25 Sutton Avenue, Oxford, MA 01540 dated 5/17/13, including one (1) sheet;

Present is Jeremy Ritzenberg, owner of 6 Willett Pond Drive.

Mr. Ritzenberg displays pictures of the deck. He states the existing deck is in poor condition. He states the deck is 1000 sq. ft. He will be replacing dilapidated wood on the upper and lower decks. He is proposing helical piers. He has submitted a more precise sketch plan.

Motion made by Mr. David, seconded by Ms. Odeh, to issue a negative determination #3 with the condition a compost sock is installed and inspected prior to start of work. Unanimous.

Discussion Items:

1. Potential Tree policy/ordinance/bylaw
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/tree-by-law-and-ordinance-guide/download>
Mr. Rogers states he had hoped to finish revising the tree policy. He asks Ms. Catrone to ask town counsel which language would be preferred; policy or guideline. He suggests the members take a look at the Newton Conservation Commission website.
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 ordinance

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

Upcoming Meeting: May 11, 2022 REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Note: Agenda items and order subject to change