

**APPROVED**

On Meeting Date: 9/25/24

## Town of Westwood

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Karon Skinner Catrone, Conservation Agent

[katrone@townhall.westwood.ma.us](mailto:katrone@townhall.westwood.ma.us)

(781) 251-2580

Grace Weller, Chair  
Michael Walsh, Vice Chair  
Debra Odeh  
Elias Fares  
Todd Sullivan  
Vesna Maneva  
Stephen Harte  
R.J. Sheer - Associate

### CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**Minutes: Conservation Commission Meeting Date: April 24, 2024 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 April 24, 2024 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Champagne Meeting Room, 50 Carby Street, with the following members present: Grace Weller, Stephen Harte, Vesna Maneva, Debra Odeh and Todd Sullivan. Michael Walsh, Elias Fares and associate member R.J. Sheer are absent. Also present is Karon Skinner Catrone, Conservation Agent.

Ms. Weller, chairperson, announces this meeting is being recorded.

- Approval of minutes – March 27, 2024 and April 17, 2024

#### **Action items:**

1. 12 Pettees Pond Lane – DEP #338-143 – Request for Certificate of Compliance - Ms. Catrone states this is a very old Order of Conditions. The file has been archived. She states she visited the site on 4/22/24 and there were no impacts to the wetland.

**Motion made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Maneva, to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 12 Pettees Pond Lane. Unanimous.**

2. 453 Clapboardtree Street – DEP #338-0708 – Request for Certificate of Compliance – Ms. Catrone states this filing was for a 2 car detached garage. She states she inspected the site on 4/22/24 and found the site to be in compliance with the approved Order of Conditions.

**Motion made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Maneva, to issue a complete Certificate of Compliance for 453 Clapboardtree Street, DEP #338-0708. Unanimous.**

3. 215 Clapboardtree Street - DEP #338-0724 – Request for Certificate of Compliance – Ms. Catrone states she inspected the site on 4/22/24 and the area was not fully stabilized.

Ms. Maneva state for consistency the Commission should wait until the area is stabilized. The grass should come in for the next meeting.

**Motion made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Maneva, to continue this Action Item to May 22, 2024 to allow the area to stabilize. Unanimous.**

4. Perry Crouse Pond - Map 21 Lot 024 – Discuss Conservation Commission support of a Town Meeting article to fund an environmental study of Perry Crouse Pond

Ms. Weller states the Commission did a site visit on 4/22/24.

Mr. Fares states the area looked fine but the bench on Westview Street should be relocated. He states he is not sure if the second catch basin has a sump. It would be beneficial to add rip rap. The catch basins should be cleaned twice a year.

Ms. Maneva states she read the study. The catch basin should be looked at to see if the capacity is correct. BETA should look at this. The area at the opening on Norfolk Street should be a rain garden or bio retention swale.

Ms. Odeh states she is not sure where priority for this project falls within the town vs spending for other conservation projects.

The Commission determines that Perry Crouse Pond was not one of the sites reviewed as part of the Conservation Land Management Plan and discusses asking Beta to add it

Ken Foscaldo of 35 Norfolk Avenue is present and states the town has an obligation to maintain their properties.

The study states the catch basins should be looked at.

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

Eileen Doherty of 22 Westview Street states “No Dumping” signs should be installed.

Brendan Doherty of 22 Westview Street asks if the study mentioned anything about the springs in the pond being blocked by sediment. If springs were uncovered it would help the situation.

Ms. Maneva states pond deterioration is a universal problem. Neponset River Watershed Association (NRWA) may be able to help. She states she will reach out to NRWA.

Ms. Weller states she would like the Commission to bring an article to Town Meeting next year for funding.

Mr. Fascaldo states the study could be used to do minor maintenance such as adding stone where needed.

Ms. Weller asks that Ms. Catrone contact BETA about sending the updated Conservation Land Management Plan and talking to BETA about adding this site to the plan.

### **Public Hearings:**

#### **Wetland Bylaw/Wetland Protection Act Public Hearings:**

#### **1054 High Street – Notice of Intent – DEP #338-0765 – Tobin School**

Addition, driveway expansion, reconstruction of other site features and invasive plant removal

The Commission opened the public hearing and reviewed copies of the Notice of Intent Application for 1054 High Street, including the following:

1. DEP form 3 Notice of Intent submitted by John Rockwood of Eco Tech, Inc., 102 Grove Street, Worcester, MA 01605, including twenty-two (22) pages;
2. Plan – “TOPOGRAPHIC SITE PLAN WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090” Sheets 1-2, dated March 4, 2024, revised April 23, 2024;

Present is John Rockwood of Eco Tech, Inc, requesting an Order of Conditions for construction of a substantial addition to the existing building, driveway and parking lot expansion and reconfiguration of other site features within Riverfront Area and/or Buffer zone.

Mr. Rockwood reviews the Riverfront Area and Buffer Zone on the site. He explains much of the proposed work is outside jurisdictional area. As mitigation the applicant is proposing to remove invasive plants using the cut and dab approach. We are proposing 42 new shrubs. All new pavement is directed to the infiltration system that overflows to the raingarden. He states no trees need to be removed for the project.

Ms. Maneva states pervious pavers work very well.

Joseph Porter, engineer from VTP Associates is present and states pervious pavers require a lot of maintenance which may or may not be done in the future.

Mr. Harte asks how many new spaces will be added.

Mr. Porter states 6 or 7.

Ms. Odeh asks where snow will be stored.

Mr. Porter states it will be stored on site and he points to the areas along the parking lot.

Ms. Catrone states there is an old silt fence on the site which should be removed and the plan should have a detail for raingarden subsurface.

Ms. Weller asks for public comment. None heard.

**Motion made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Fares, to close the public hearing for 1054 High Street, DEP #338-0765. Unanimous.**

**Motion made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Fares to issue a Order of Conditions for 1054 High Street, DEP #338-0765 with the following conditions:**

- 1. Remove old site fence from site.**
- 2. Revise plan to show detail for raingarden subsurface.**
- 3. Maintenance of raingarden every two years.**

**Unanimous.**

#### **Update Rules and Regulations** – Continued from April 17, 2024

Discuss and vote on the adoption and/or amendment of various sets of Rules and Regulations of the Town of Westwood Conservation Commission, including the following:

#### **Westwood Conservation Commission Guidelines on Tree and Plant Removal**

Ms. Weller states this hearing was continued from the April 17, 2024. We have since added the second paragraph. The Commission reviews this change.

The Commission agrees they are satisfied with the guidelines.

**Motion made by Ms. Odeh, seconded by Mr. Harte, to approve the Westwood Conservation Commission Guidelines on Tree and Plant Removal. Unanimous.**

Regulations for Local Wetlands Bylaw

Ms. Weller states we have added references to the Westwood Conservation Commission guidelines on Tree and Plant Removal.

**Motion made by Ms. Maneva, seconded by Ms. Odeh, to approve the amended Town of Westwood Wetland Protection Regulations. Unanimous.**

**After some discussion regarding the previous motion, particularly whether Ms. Maneva was present at all meetings, Motion is made by Ms. Odeh, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to reopen the hearing regarding the Regulations for Local Wetlands Bylaw. Ms. Odeh, Mr. Fares, Mr. Harte, Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Weller vote in favor. Ms. Maneva abstains. Vote passes.**

**Motion made by Ms. Odeh, seconded by Mr. Fares, to approve the amended Town of Westwood Wetland Protection Regulations. Ms. Odeh, Mr. Fares, Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Weller vote in favor. Ms. Maneva and Mr. Harte abstain. Vote passes.**

Stormwater Management Regulations

Ms. Weller states we have added references to the Westwood Conservation Commission guidelines on Tree and Plant Removal and language regarding the online submittal process.

Mr. Fares states he does not believe the Stormwater Management Regulations should be approved as written.

Ms. Catrone states she will ask Phil Paradis to attend a meeting to review the Stormwater Management Regulations and answer any questions the Commission may have.

**Motion made by Ms. Odeh, seconded by Mr. Sullivan to continue the hearing for the Stormwater Management Regulations to May 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm at 50 Carby Street. Unanimous.**

The Commission did not discuss or vote on minutes.

**Discussion Items:**

1. Commissioners' observations around town and next scheduled site visits
2. Update on significant projects and other topics not reasonably anticipated
3. Representative for dog park task force – Mr. Sullivan volunteers to be the Conservation Commission representative for the dog park task force.

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

**Upcoming Meeting: 5/8/24 – 50 Carby Street  
50 Carby Street, Westwood, MA**