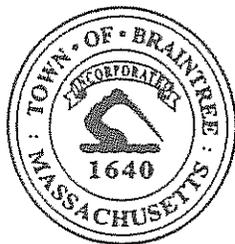


Department of Planning and Community Development

90 Pond Street
Braintree, MA 02184
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Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan

Braintree Conservation Commission

Patrick Flynn, Chair
Donald Murphy, Vice-Chair
Diane Francis
Matthew Hobin
Daniel J. McMorrow, Jr.
Gail Poliner-Feldman
Alan Weinberg

Staff Kelly Phelan

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2011

APPROVED

Members Present: Patrick Flynn, Chair
Gus Murphy, Vice Chair
Gail Feldman
Diane Francis
Matthew Hobin
Daniel McMorrow, Jr
Alan Weinberg

Staff: Kelly Phelan

Public Hearings

Request for Determination of Applicability 79 Lunar Ave./Schnetzer

*Documents: RDA Application dated January 21, 2011
Topographic Plan dated January 29, 2011*

Brett Trowbridge from Oxbow Associates was present representing Dorothy Schnetzer. Mr. Trowbridge said proposal is for an addition to an existing house. The house was built in 1965 before the Wetlands Protection Act. The lot is buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetland, riverfront area and floodplain (elevation 106' according to the FEMA flood insurance rate map).

The proposal is to remove the existing deck and replace it with a sunroom on footings. The deck has six footings and the new sunroom will have 7 footings. The structure will be raised on the sona tube footings to be at elevation 111', about 5' above the floodplain elevation. Mr. Trowbridge presented the survey plan to confirm that the structure was above the floodplain elevation. He also recalculated the amount of flood storage based on the survey plan and found it to be 2.5 cubic feet of flood storage lost.

Mr. Flynn noted staff's recommendation to issue a negative Determination with conditions.

Motion by Mr. Murphy, second by Mr. McMorrow, to issue a negative Determination of Applicability with conditions as drafted. Vote: 7-0.

Other Business

Request for Certificate of Compliance

8-588 9 Gordon Rd./Braintree Yacht Club Dredging

Staff said that the Order of Conditions was issued in 2008. Work was completed over November and December 2010. Staff recommended issuing the Certificate of Compliance and releasing the as built guarantee.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. Murphy, to issue the Certificate of Compliance and release the \$4000 as built guarantee.

Responses from Town Officials Re: Lyme Disease and Vehicle Collisions

*Documents: January 6, 2011 letter from Mary McGrath and Mary Mulready
January 19, 2011 email from Lt. Ware and Dave Littlewood*

As requested, the Commission received responses from the Health Dept. and Police/Animal Control with statistics on Lyme disease cases and vehicle collisions with deer.

Mr. Flynn noted that the Lyme disease numbers had been increasing but dropped off last year and that there was an increase vehicle collisions in 2010. Mr. Flynn asked staff if there were comments from other departments. Staff said there were not but that she had conversations in the past with one of the rangers at Pond Meadow who was concerned about the number of deer and number of deer ticks.

Mr. Murphy said he has an article from the MA Fish and Wildlife magazine on white tail deer population issues which recommends that conservation land be opened for hunting. Staff will copy for everyone for the next meeting.

Staff provided the breakdown on land management in town. Twenty-six percent (26%) of the land area in town is open space. The Commission manages 4.7% of the town or 18% of the total open space. See memo dated January 13, 2011 for details.

Mr. Murphy said a hunting policy should be town wide to be effective but that the Commission could allow it on their land.

Ms. Feldman said that everyone who manages open space land should discuss the issue.

Ms. Francis said she liked what the ranger had suggested.

Mr. McMorrow said the Commission has no jurisdiction over other land.

Mr. Murphy said that at a minimum the Commission should open its land.

Mr. Flynn said he would like to see documentation if deer are overbrowsing conservation land.

Ms. Feldman said she would like to know what role the town would play in this and that a funding source would be needed to oversee any hunting activity. Mr. McMorrow said that permits could be a source of funding. Mr. Murphy said charging a fee would open the town up to liability. Ms. Feldman said because we are in an urbanized area with active parkland, patrolling is required. Mr. McMorrow said issuing permits would allow the town to know who is out there.

Mr. Murphy offered to contact surrounding towns to see how if they allow hunting and if so, how they manage it.

Plan for Conservation Land Priorities

*Documents: Conservation Land Priorities
Staff Memo on Open Space Areas dated January 13, 2011*

This discussion was continued from the January 6th meeting.

Mr. Flynn restated his interest in holding a site walk with neighbors at the South St. land.

Ms. Feldman suggested focusing on one area and said there should be a plan for the parks.

Mr. Hobin said he is only familiar with Cranberry Pond and would like to see the other areas.

Mr. Weinberg said that Eaton's Pond is neglected and it could be a good asset for residents of the area.

Mr. Flynn suggested that the Commission go as a group to visit the three major areas (Cranberry Pond, South St. and Eaton's Pond) to better evaluate and make decisions on their use. A tentative date for the last Saturday in April (4/30) at 7:30 am was chosen.

Minutes

Documents: Minutes of 1/6/11 meeting

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. McMorrow, to approve the minutes of January 1, 2011. Vote: 7-0.

Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Murphy, second by Mr. Weinberg, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Vote: 7-0.