

## Department of Planning and Community Development

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Mayor Charles C. Kokoros

# APPROVED

### Braintree Conservation Commission

Heather Charles Lis, Chair  
Christopher Hayward, Vice-Chair  
Kimberly Kroha, Clerk  
Joyce Albrecht  
Diane Francis  
Peter Williams

Staff: Kelly Phelan

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020 7PM TOWN HALL- JOHNSON CHAMBERS

Present: Joyce Albrecht, Diane Francis, Christopher Hayward, Kim Kroha, Heather Charles Lis (Chair), Peter Williams & Kelly Phelan, Staff

Absent: none

### Public Hearings

#### Request for Determination of Applicability Gordon Rd.-Watson Park/East Braintree Little League

Andrew Berman, President of East Braintree Little League, was present. He said the baseball fields are dilapidated and they propose to replace dugouts, bleachers and scoreboards as well as install protective netting and a batting cage and replace fences. They have applied for funding from the Community Preservation Committee.

Ms. Charles Lis went through the comments in the staff report. The project is in the buffer zone to BVW, Salt Marsh and Coastal Bank and is within the Riverfront Area and Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage. She asked Mr. Berman about the alternate location for the scoreboard at Sheridan Field so as to avoid vegetation removal. Mr. Berman said it was along the left field fence near home base. Ms. Charles Lis asked about moving the bleachers at Machado field closer to the field, away from the river. Mr. Berman said they could move them closer to the field. Ms. Charles Lis asked about providing a vegetated buffer strip in this area between the river and the field, along the walking path. Staff said the town's Stormwater Division is also working on this and has received approval from the Recreation Director to seed an area along the path. Staff will follow up with the Stormwater Division. Charles Lis noted that compensatory flood storage is not required in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage but that flood waters should not be obstructed. She asked

if the slabs for the bleachers and dugouts will be flush with existing grade. Mr. Berman said they would with the exception of Delorey Field which is raised now. Ms. Charles Lis asked about stockpiling/staging areas and erosion control. Mr. Berman said they will stage off-site as much as possible and use the parking lot when needed. He will discuss erosion control with the contractor.

Mr. Williams asked Mr. Berman if he was obtaining construction plans and noted that the limit of work should be shown. Mr. Berman said he is obtaining construction plans and will add the limit of work.

Ms. Kroha asked about the alternate location of the batting cage. Mr. Berman said it will be between Machado and Steele field in what is an open area.

Ms. Charles Lis asked if there was public comment.

Mark Czyrkliis, Argyle Rd., asked why this was the first time the abutters were hearing about this. Ms. Charles Lis asked if he received notice of this hearing. Mr. Czyrkliis said he did but expected to be notified prior to the project getting to this stage. Mr. Berman said they complied with the notification requirements. Ms. Charles Lis said they met the notification requirements of the Wetlands Protection Act and local bylaw.

Pat Sheehan, Gordon Rd., asked about the height of the dugouts. Mr. Berman said he believed they were 10 feet tall but will confirm. Ms. Charles Lis said height is less of a concern to the Conservation Commission since area of disturbance is the focus.

Marge Henderson, Gordon Rd. asked if they could have a meeting with East Braintree Little League. Mr. Berman said yes. Ms. Henderson also asked if the project would be done if it is not funded with the Community Preservation funds. Mr. Berman said they would not be able to do all the work.

Dave Oliva asked about the protective netting and whether birds would get trapped in it. Mr. Berman said it was similar to what is there and he is concerned about kids getting hit by stray balls.

Mr. Czyrkliis asked if the scoreboards are electrical. Mr. Berman said yes. Ms. Charles Lis said the electrical trenches should be shown on the construction plans and the Commission will condition that they be stabilized. She noted the other items should be shown on the plans (limit of work, erosion control, the final location for the Sheridan scoreboard and the batting cage). She suggested that conditions include: installation of a vegetated strip along the walking path, no change in grade, stockpiling or staging be offsite as much as feasible and otherwise in the parking lot.

Motion by Ms. Francis to continue the Watson Park RDA hearing to the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Second by Ms. Kroha. Vote: 6-0-0.

## **Other Business**

### **61 Oakledge Dr. Conservation Restriction Encroachment MOU**

As discussed at the February hearing for the 61 Oakledge Dr. addition, staff drafted a Memorandum of Understanding between the 61 Oakledge Dr. owner and the Commission. John Goldrosen, Assistant Town Solicitor also reviewed the draft MOU.

Mr. Hayward asked about the significance of the May 18<sup>th</sup> deadline to install the markers and plant shrubs. Staff said it was just a deadline to ensure these tasks are done in the spring. Ms. Charles Lis suggested adding a sentence to #2 in the "Therefore" section that the shrub species be approved by the Commission or staff. Also #1 in this section will be edited to say that the permanent markers will be affixed to the "stone wall surrounding the pond" and "Fernald" will be added in front of Trust.

Discussion on conservation markers. Rockland Sign makes these markers.

Motion by Mr. Williams to have staff investigate purchasing conservation markers. Second by Ms. Kroha. Vote: 6-0-0.

Motion by Ms. Albrecht to approve the MOU as amended. Second by Ms. Francis. Vote: 6-0-0.

### **Request for Certificate of Compliance 8-42 25 John Paul Circle**

Staff noted that Order of Conditions for a subdivision was issued in 1975 and the subdivision constructed in the late 1970's. Over the years, several partial Certificates of Compliance have been issued. There was no condition for an as-built plan nor any surviving conditions. Staff recommended issuing a full Certificate of Compliance.

Ms. Francis said she knows someone who lives there and there is an erosion issue near her front steps. Ms. Charles Lis asked if this was in an area jurisdictional to the Commission. Ms. Francis said it was not and that she did not object to issuing the Certificate of Compliance.

Motion by Ms. Francis to issue the Certificate of Compliance for 8-42 25 John Paul Circle. Second by Mr. Hayward. Vote: 6-0-0.

### **Discussion – Request to Enforce on Bamboo Planting**

Staff said a resident requested the Commission require his neighbor to remove bamboo which is spreading from the neighbor's property. Staff looked at the site and provided a fact sheet on bamboo. As the bamboo is not spreading into the adjacent wetland area, she recommended the Commission not get involved and let the neighbors resolve this issue themselves.

Ms. Charles Lis suggested sending an informational letter. Ms. Kroha agreed. Staff will send a letter and provide a copy to the Commission.

### **Establishment of Stewardship Committees or Groups**

The Commission will hold a trail walk at Cranberry Pond (if parking can be identified) or Town Forest (if parking for Cranberry Pond is not identified) on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM.

### **Other**

Staff noted that there has been an issue with siltation on the Petersen Pool project. The new cross-country drainage line which is being installed was discharging silty water to the wetland during rain events last week. The upstream end of the pipe was plugged and staff concluded water was getting into the pipe from the gaskets which are not watertight as specified on the approved plan. Ms. Charles Lis is concerned that they did not use what was specified on the approved plan, especially since redoximorphic indicators are visible in the photo provided by staff. Mr. Hayward suggested sediment may have gotten into the pipe while they were installing it. Mr. Williams suggested the pipe be vacuumed "vactored" and monitored during the next rain event. If siltation continues after the pipe is cleaned, the project developer will need to propose a solution. Members agreed with this approach. Staff will inform the applicant that the Commission is concerned that the pipe is not in accordance with the approved plan and that the pipe must be vactored and monitored in the next rain event.

### **Approval of Minutes – February 6, 2020**

Mr. Williams requested changing the word "problem" to "concern" on the second paragraph of page 2 and Ms. Charles Lis noted a few typos.

Motion by Ms. Francis to approve the minutes as corrected. Second by Mr. Hayward. Vote: 6-0-0.

### **Adjourn**

Motion by Ms. Francis at 9:10 PM to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mr. Hayward. Vote: 6-0-0.