



Mayor
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Department of Planning and Community Development

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Heather Charles Lis, Chair
Christopher Hayward, Vice Chair
Joyce Albrecht, Member
Diane Francis, Member
Peter Williams, Member

APPROVED

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES AUGUST 5, 2021 MEETING (7PM) CAHILL AUDITORIUM

Present: Christopher Hayward, Joyce Albrecht, Diane Francis, Peter Williams and Kelly Phelan, Conservation Planner

Absent: Heather Charles Lis

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice of Intent DEP File # 8-692 255 Plain St. (Cemetery)/Town of Braintree* (requested continuation to September 2nd meeting)

Motion: by Ms. Albrecht to continue the hearing to the September 2nd meeting.

Second: by Mr. Williams.

Vote: In favor: 4, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0.

Notice of Intent DEP File # 8-695 42 Hayward St./Lu

Chi Man, project engineer, was present. Mr. Man said he had addressed comments from the staff report at the last meeting and had revised the plan in response to those comments as well as Commission comments from the last meeting. He pulled the slope of the driveway back to make it more gentle and the driveway is also narrower.

Ms. Francis asked if the driveway would be gravel. Mr. Man said it would be turf stone which is a type of paver block.

Mr. Hayward asked if anyone had made a site visit. Ms. Francis said she had. She asked about the paver pad. Mr. Man said it had been constructed by the previous owner. Ms. Albrecht asked about the conduit under the driveway that had been filled in. Mr. Man said they propose to uncover the outlet and stabilize it with rip rap.

Mr. Williams said he had a major concern with the fill in the 25-foot buffer zone. Mr. Man said he made the slope more gentle as that is what he understood the Commission wanted. Mr. Williams said there is room to move the foot of the slope back so that the fill is out of the 25-foot buffer zone. Mr. Hayward said his biggest concern is the

fill in the 25-foot buffer zone. Mr. Man said they can pull the fill back and would accept that as a condition. Ms. Phelan said it should be shown on the plan.

Motion: by Mr. Williams to continue the hearing to the September 2nd meeting for a revised plan.

Second: by Ms. Albrecht.

Vote: In favor: 4, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0.

Notice of Intent DEP File pending 66 Armstrong Circle/Lynch

Gigi Munden, project engineer with Munden Engineering was present with the applicant, Paula Lynch. Ms. Munden presented the site plan. The Farm River borders the site and there are wetlands and floodplain. They propose a small addition of approximately 300 sq. ft. as well as additional patio area and to repair the existing retaining wall and expand a retaining wall across the yard. There will be disruption in the 25-foot buffer zone which they propose to stabilize with native groundcover. Ms. Lynch said there are ferns and irises there now.

Mr. Williams asked why they are disturbing the 25-foot buffer zone. Ms. Munden said it was for the grading. Mr. Hayward suggested they leave the area alone rather than re-grade it. Ms. Munden said that Ms. Lynch would like to the area to be level so they can use it. Ms. Phelan said that much of the area is lawn now and suggested they only grade outside of the 25-foot buffer zone. Ms. Munden said they will work with the botanist to get a detailed plant list for the area disturbed.

Mr. Hayward requested they address the Riverfront standards.

Motion: by Mr. Williams to continue the hearing to the September 2nd meeting.

Second: by Ms. Albrecht.

Vote: In favor: 4, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Cranberry Pond Scout Project Presentation

Quinlan Connors, Eagle Scout from Troop 22 was present. Mr. Connors is proposing a project for several improvements at Cranberry Pond Area. Improvements include: restoring the kiosk, adding a QR code for the trail map, updating the current trail map, removing a refrigerator that has been dumped on the property, constructing a bridge over a muddy section of trail, replacing broken planks on the existing bridge on the green trail and constructing a water bar to prevent erosion of the green trail and installing temporary haybales. He also requested permission to use an ATV to transport materials to the blue and green trails.

Mr. Hayward congratulated Mr. Connors on getting to this point in scouting. He requested that Mr. Connors not use haybales since they can contain seeds from invasive species and recommended straw bales or wattles instead.

Mr. Williams suggested using numbers at trail intersections. He said Wompatuck State Park does this. Mr. Connors said he would like to use a different trail marker system and presented an example of a wooden shape that would be painted and attached to trees. He said they would be easier to see than the current trail markers and can be made of different shapes so that people who are color-blind can also use them to navigate. Mr. Williams said the current markers indicate that it is conservation land. Mr. Connors suggested that could be added to the wooden trail markers. The Commission will continue the discussion on the possibility of changing the trail markers at the next meeting.

Ms. Phelan suggested that only the marked and official trails be mapped, as opposed to some of the small, unofficial trails which have been created by mountain bikers. She also requested Mr. Connors provide the draft version of the map prior to finalizing a revised version.

Mr. Williams asked if the ATV proposed to be used was insured. Mr. Connors said he would confirm it would be operated by an adult.

Mr. Hayward thanked Mr. Connors for his efforts. He noted that the Commission members may be available to help out with the project.

Submission Deadline Policy

Ms. Phelan proposed adopting a deadline of Friday at noon the week prior to a Commission meeting for the submission of revised materials.

Motion: by Mr. Williams to adopt a deadline of Friday at noon the week prior to a Commission meeting for the submission of revised materials.

Second: by Ms. Albrecht.

Vote: In favor: 4, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0.

Approval of Minutes – July 1, 2021

Motion: by Mr. Williams to approve the July 1st minutes.

Second: by Ms. Francis.

Vote: In favor: 4, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0.

Adjourn

Motion: by Ms. Albrecht to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM

Second: by Ms. Francis.

Vote: In favor: 4, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0.

*continued from July 1, 2021 meeting