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TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

PATRICIA E. DZURIS

TOWN CLERK

Chelmsford Conservation Commission
Town of Chelmsford
50 Billerica Rd. Chelmsford, Ma 01824
Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2020
Approved October 20, 2020

Meeting Location: Virtual Meeting

Members Present: David McLachlan-Chairman, William Vines, Chris Garrahan, Karl Bischoff, Chris Tymula, John Swenson, Marc Gibbs

Members Absent:

Others Present: Katharine Guertin-Conservation Agent,

Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chairman McLachlan.

All documents referenced in these minutes are available for review at the Community Development Office, 50 Billerica Rd., Chelmsford Town Offices Building. This meeting was video recorded via the Zoom Platform and Chelmsford Telemedia.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020, Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, the Town of Chelmsford Conservation Commission will conduct a remote public hearing on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at 7:00 P.M. to consider the following applications:

Open Session / Citizen Concerns

No one came forward at this time.

Regulatory Hearings

Notice of Intent- continued (request to continue)

236-240 Groton Road, residential subdivision

The applicant has requested a continuance as plans are still being revised.

Mr. Garrahan stated he missed the second meeting on this matter, but has listened to the recording.

Motion: by Mr. Garrahan to continue the Hearing for 236-240 Groton Rd. to September 15, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Vines.

Roll Call vote:

Mr. Gibbs: Aye

Mr. Vines: Aye
Mr. Tymula: Aye
Mr. Swenson: Aye
Mr. Bischoff: Aye
Mr. Garrahan: Aye
Mr. McLachlan: Aye

Motion carries, unanimous.

Notice of Intent-continued (Request to Continue)

44 Central Square, construct a 32 unit condominium

The applicant has requested a continuance, as plans are still being revised.

Mr. McLachlan was asked to attend a meeting on August 24, 2020 on behalf of the Commission regarding this application.

Motion: by Mr. Garrahan to continue the Hearing for 44 Central Square to September 15, 2020.
Seconded by Mr. Vines.

Roll Call vote:

Mr. Gibbs: Aye
Mr. Vines: Aye
Mr. Tymula: Aye
Mr. Swenson: Aye
Mr. Bischoff: Aye
Mr. Garrahan: Aye
Mr. McLachlan: Aye

Motion carries, unanimous.

Discussion

Potential Parcel acquisition (Wright)

There is a small parcel of land near Parker Rd. which is about 1/10th acre that abuts the Warren-Pohl property. The parcel is about 25 feet wide. It could be an access point between Wright Reservation and the Warren-Pohl property. The Commission agreed the Town should pursue the acquisition of this piece of land.

Motion: by Mr. Garrahan to notify the Town Manager that the Conservation Commission supports the acquisition of the parcel known as the Spanos property. Seconded by Mr. Vines.

Roll Call vote:

Mr. Gibbs: Aye
Mr. Vines: Aye
Mr. Tymula: Aye
Mr. Swenson: Aye
Mr. Bischoff: Aye
Mr. Garrahan: Aye
Mr. McLachlan: Aye

Motion carries, unanimous.

Continual Business

Land Management

Stony Brook Stream/Wilson Lane dam

Mr. Garrahan explained that several members visited the dam at the end of Wilson Lane, as well as the Stony Brook Stream. The canal had flowing water. It doesn't make sense to do anything about the dam, as it serves on an outlet for Freeman Lake. Stony Brook Stream was low.

A citizen requested that water be stopped at the dam in an attempt to raise the level of Stony Brook Stream. However, blocking off the canal would have blocked an outsource from Freeman, and would not have helped the level in the stream.

Downstream and upstream impacts could not be determined from this visit.

Katie will notify the resident nothing will be done, and the low water conditions are presumably from the drought being experienced this year.

Mr. Garrahan did a deed search on the dam, and determined that rights to the canal were deeded to the Town, back in 1975.

Red Wing Bridge Replacement

Jim Tribou needs reimbursement of \$716.08 for pressure treated wood and materials for a bridge at Red Wing Farm. COSS has agreed to pay \$216.08, if the Commission can pay \$500.00. There is funding available in the Commission's Contribution Account.

Motion: by Mr. Garrahan to authorize disbursement of \$500.00 to James Tribou for materials purchased to replace a bridge at Red Wing Farm. Seconded by Mr. Gibbs.

Roll Call vote:

Mr. Gibbs: Aye

Mr. Vines: Aye

Mr. Tymula: Aye

Mr. Swenson: Aye

Mr. Bischoff: Aye

Mr. Garrahan: Aye

Mr. McLachlan: Aye

Motion carries, unanimous.

Other reports

Trash on a resident's property on Mill Rd. near Mill Pond has been mostly cleaned up, and the resident has planted many perennial plants.

A Special Town Meeting is being held on August 24, 2020 to approve funding for the purchase of the Warren-Pohl property. Commissioners were encouraged to speak to their Town Meeting Representatives to ask them to support the Warrant Article.

Mr. McLachlan spoke with Bob Delaney, and the Chelmsford Water District is proceeding to acquire the 41 acre parcel at Misty Meadows. There was support for making part of the parcel a wildlife refuge area. A vote will be taken at the Water District's meeting being held on August 19, 2020.

Mr. McLachlan is still awaiting the quote information from NEMBA for location signage at Russell Mill Reservation.

Agent's report

Signatures are still needed for a Certificate of Compliance which was approved at a previous meeting. Commissioners were asked to please stop by the table outside of the Community Development office.

Approve Minutes

There were no Minutes to approve this evening.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: September 15th

Motion: by Mr. Tymula to adjourn the meeting at 7:28PM. Seconded by Mr. Vines.

Roll Call vote:

Mr. Gibbs: Aye

Mr. Vines: Aye

Mr. Tymula: Aye

Mr. Swenson: Aye

Mr. Bischoff: Aye

Mr. Garrahan: Aye

Mr. McLachlan: Aye

Motion carries, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian W. Merrill

Recording Secretary

Supporting documents:

-Applications for Regulatory Hearings