

Chelmsford Conservation Commission
Town of Chelmsford
50 Billerica Rd. Chelmsford, Ma 01824
Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2021
Approved May 18, 2021

TOWN OF
CHELMSFORD
PATRICIA E.
DZURIS
TOWN CLERK

Meeting held via Zoom.

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

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 audio and hand recorded via the Recording Secretary, and televised via 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, April 20, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. to consider the following applications:

Open Session/Citizen Concerns

No one came forward at this time.

Regulatory Hearings

Request for Determination of Applicability-new

17-19 North Road, irrigation well installation

Legal Notice read.

The Project Engineer spoke on behalf of the applicant, who explained that using the well is more economical than using Town water for the purpose of irrigation. They will follow all Board of Health regulations. The well will supply water to water the lawns. The landlord will be responsible for maintenance issues.

Water testing would be done after the well is installed, per Board of Health regulations. Mr. Gibbs was concerned with treatment for iron and other minerals, as water from the filter system should not be put back in the pond. If the test results are not satisfactory, the Board of Health will not allow them to use the well.

No comments were received from the audience.

Motion: by Mr. Garrahan for a Negative Three Determination for 17-19 North Rd., subject to water testing results being satisfactory by the Board of Health and other Town Boards, no negative impacts to the adjacent water body, and that the water is filtered properly. The Commission requested copies of periodic reports submitted to the Board of Health. Seconded by Mr. Tymula.

Roll Call vote:

Mr. Gibbs: Aye

Mr. Vines: Aye

Mr. Bischoff: Aye

Mr. Swenson: Aye

Mr. Tymula: Aye

Mr. Garrahan: Aye

Mr. McLachlan: Aye

Motion carries, unanimous.

**Request for Determination of Applicability-new
10 Technology Drive, wetland boundary determination**

Legal notice read.

David Laverde is the applicant. Steve Stepinski, from Merrimack Engineering. Mrs. Guertin has not visited the site.

The wetlands were flagged 3-4 years ago, and the flags were re-done by Norse Environmental in March, 2021.

The eastern property boundary is the Chelmsford/Lowell line. This is vacant land between two buildings. The resource area is a marsh. Vegetation is very dense, and there is a pond there. Flagging matches the DEP wetland flagging available in GIS. There is a 380 foot line that was flagged.

The Commission recommended a site walk. Mrs. Guertin will arrange a date for a site walk, and someone on the Commission will join her.

Motion: by Mr. Garrahan to schedule a site walk for 10 Technology Rd. for April 27, 2021, at 8:30AM. Seconded by Mr. Vines.

Roll Call vote:

Mr. Gibbs: Aye

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

Motion carries, unanimous.

Motion: by Mr. Garrahan to continue the hearing for 10 Technology Rd. to May 4, 2021.

Seconded by Mr. Vines.

Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carries, unanimous.

Notice of Intent-continued

314 Dunstable Road, six lot single family subdivision

The applicant is awaiting the environmental report and DEP review.

Motion: by Mr. Gibbs to continue the Hearing for 314 Dunstable Rd. to May 4, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Tymula.

Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carries, unanimous.

Discussion

Art installation proposal-Cranberry Bog

Artist Rose Christian provided a copy of her proposal to the Commission.

Ms. Christian explained that her art is based on things she has found in the bog. She had an earlier installation there in December. She wants to display images she has made from things at the bog.

She has printed some images onto cloth flags on a cord suspended between trees that run along the trail. The flags are cotton, and printed on non-toxic inks. She is doing this as part of her thesis, and all activity would be documented.

There will be 15 printing plates, and 50 flags created to date. Nylon ropes will be hung about 7 feet off the ground. Flags are 12 feet long.

Mr. McLachlan warned about possible vandalism. Ms. Christian lives nearby, and she visits the bog every day. The exhibit would stay up no longer than two weeks, from the beginning of May to May 14. The flags would be displayed by the Point, along the trail, on the pine trees.

A new wooden walkway appears in one of her photos. Mr. McLachlan was not aware of this walkway. Mr. Bischoff felt this is a good experiment to see if vandalism is a concern. The Commission supports the project.

Mr. McLachlan requested a one page flyer so that it can be distributed to people in Carlisle and to the Chelmsford Center of the Arts. Mr. Stanway of COSS will promote the event on Facebook.

Motion: by Mr. Garrahan to support the temporary installation of an art exhibit of up to 50 cloth flags in the Cranberry Bog Reservation for a period not to exceed four weeks. Seconded by Mr. Tymula.

Roll Call vote:

Mr. Gibbs: Aye

Mr. Vines: Aye

Mr. Bischoff: Aye

Mr. Swenson: Aye

Mr. Tymula: Aye

Mr. Garrahan: Aye

Mr. McLachlan: Aye

Motion carries, unanimous.

Willis Drive Conservation Land recurrent issue

Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Vines and Mr. McLachlan went to site, and spoke with an abutter.

The site is very clean except for boats. Erosion may be from moving canoes, or it could be from road runoff on Willis Drive or Sixth Ave.

There were 6-10 boats and canoes on the site. The abutter noted that some of them are kept on site year round. A raft in the water is supposed to be repaired. A pier was requested, and Mr. McLachlan advised she would need a permit from the Conservation Commission.

Additional signage can be acquired and installed. The Town could remove the boats at the end of the season. Mr. McLachlan will discuss boat removal with the DPW.

Discussion will be continued.

Dedication bench proposal at the Cranberry Bog

Mrs. Guertin was not available for this discussion due to technical difficulties.

Mr. Bischoff knew there was a proposal, but he was not aware of any details.

Mrs. Guertin was able to return. The family of Kevin McCarthy is requesting permission to install a bench in his memory. The location has not been determined.

Discussion will be continued.

Red Wing parking lot use

Mrs. Guertin announced that an abutter needs to remove some dying trees, and the contractor would use the lot for his equipment for about three hours. COSS will be notified of this use.

Bike Skills events at Russell Mill

A company hosted an event without permission, which needs to be followed up on.

A second group has submitted a request for May 22 & May 23, 2021 to host a bike skills clinic, with no sales of equipment. NEMBA is aware of this particular event. The Police Department will be notified about the additional activity at this site

Motion: by Mr. Garrahan to approve the use of Russell Mill Reservation for a bicycle skills clinic on May 22, 2021 and May 23, 2021, subject to notifying NEMBA and the Chelmsford Youth Soccer League. Seconded by Mr. Bischoff.

Roll Call vote:

Mr. Gibbs: Aye

Mr. Vines: Aye

Mr. Bischoff: Aye

Mr. Swenson: Aye

Mr. Tymula: Aye

Mr. Garrahan: Aye

Mr. McLachlan: Aye

Motion carries, unanimous.

NEMBA has installed trail markers at the emergency entrances and exits to help with identifying the locations.

Continual Business

Land Management

Warren-Pohl – update

Mr. Bischoff announced that a draft Conservation Restriction document was just received and is being reviewed. A baseline land survey is still pending.

Negotiations are ongoing with Caroline Parlee on a haying contract.

There will be a presentation to the Select Board regarding the CPC funding applications, and some land acquisitions around Freeman Lake.

Mr. Bischoff was aware of a trail bridge request at Crooked Spring from an Eagle Scout candidate that may be coming before the Commission. COSS has reviewed this proposal, and has supported a number of Eagle Scout Projects around Town.

The Commission is invited to a Tree Planting at Russell Mill on May 1, 2021 at the new park being created there. A local group is donating \$1,000.00 in trees for the site.

There may be a request to remove some dangerous trees near trails at the Cranberry Bog that are beyond what COSS can handle. DPW could be asked for their assistance.

NMCOG is coordinating a trail project that will list area trails on a GIS system. Mr. Bischoff will follow up with more information.

Select Board member Ken Lefebvre has requested a meeting with Mr. McLachlan and Mr. Stanway to discuss the Warren-Pohl property.

Mr. McLachlan was aware of an issue at the Cranberry Bog dam where an extra board was installed. The board has since been removed, and the regular board has been replaced.

Agent's Report

Nothing was discussed at this time.

Approve Minutes 2/16, 3/2, 3/16

Motion: by Mr. Garrahan to approve the Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2021, and March 2, 2021, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Swenson.

Roll Call vote:

Mr. Gibbs: Aye

Mr. Vines: Aye

Mr. Bischoff: Aye

Mr. Swenson: Aye

Mr. Tymula: Aye

Mr. Garrahan: Aye

Mr. McLachlan: Aye

Motion carries, unanimous.

Adjourn

Motion: by Mr. Vines to adjourn the meeting at 8:20PM.

Roll Call vote:

Mr. Gibbs: Aye

Mr. Vines: Aye

Mr. Bischoff: Aye

Mr. Swenson: Aye

Mr. Tymula: Aye

Mr. Garrahan: Aye

Mr. McLachlan: Aye

Motion carries, unanimous.

Next Meetings: May 4th May 18th

Respectfully submitted,
Vivian W. Merrill

Supporting documents:

-Applications for Requests for Determination

-Letter regarding Willis Drive

-Draft Minutes