

Acton Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

December 04th, 2024

7:15 PM

Hybrid Meeting (Room 09 & Zoom)

Present: Terry Maitland (Chair), James Colman (Vice-Chair), Peter Hocknell, Kate Warwick, Zywia Chadzynska, Jillian Peters (via-Zoom), Amy Green

Conservation Agent: Olivia Barksdale

Public Concerns and Regular Business

7:19 Terry Maitland, Chair opened the meeting at 7:19pm.

7:19 Public Concerns

Tera Friedrichs called in with two concerns, first about water potentially spilling into wetlands at Audubon Hill and second about 43 Kinsley Road. She asked if 43 Kinsley Road is on the agenda and if it will be heard around 8pm. The Commission was not aware of the water spilling at Audubon Hill and informed her that 43 Kinsley Road will be heard and that it may happen a little later than 8pm.

7:19 Hazard Tree – 506 Acorn Park Drive

Ira Wolf landowner gave an updated presentation. In his updated presentation he presented applicable regulations for tree removal. Members of the Commission disagreed with his use of the regulations. The homeowner is filing under the Commission's Hazard Tree Policy not the State's Wetland Protection Act. The landowner reduced the number of trees from 14 to 3, requesting that numbered trees 10, 11 and 13 be removed. The Commission is concerned that Mr. Wolf did not use the arborist's suggestions of pruning from the site visit. Some members of the Commission are also concerned that Mr. Wolf did not select the trees with the rotting trunk and did not make a strong enough case to show that 10, 11 and 13 are immediately hazardous. 10, 11 and 13 were selected based on size and proximity to the house. The Commission requested to see the arborist updated report showing pruning as a solution, Mr. Wolf agreed to provide the information at the next meeting.

8:01 Notice of Intent –Continued Public Hearing –416 Great Road #085-1377

Working on DEP comments, Continued to December 18th at 7:15pm

8:02 Notice of Intent–Continued Public Hearing-358 Great Road #085-1368

Paul Kirchner from Stamski and McNary gave an overview of the project. At a previous meeting the Commission asked for more information about the proposed finished

treatment of the gravel area to the rear of the single-family dwelling. Mr. Kirchner submitted a revised plan showing the requested detail, the modified label state that gravel is to be removed and restored with loam and a conservation seed mix. Note 10 on the plan specifies the limit to the gravel area as shown, it will be planted with New England Conservation wildlife seed mix, alternative seed mix may be substituted with approval of conservation staff. The landowner is okay with a condition that the back area can be mowed less than once a year. Ms. Green moved to issue the Orders of Conditions, with one special condition: the restoration area back of the gravel lot can be mowed not more than once a year. Ms. Warwick seconded the motion and all voted yes.

8:07 Notice of Intent –Public Hearing –104 Concord Road #085-XXXX

No DEP number, Continued to December 18th at 7:20pm

8:07 Request for Certificate of Compliance- Public Hearing – 96 Newtown Road

Ms. Barksdale gave an overview of the project. The landowner is selling the house and would like to get a Certificate of Compliance only for the septic system on Lot 1. The Sewage Disposal Plan from the NOI shows a rain garden split between Lot 1 and Lot 2. “Plotting Plan” was submitted showing the construction of the rain garden. Previously, Commission put a special order of conditions on the application stating: “A rock wall, composed of 2 ft. to 3ft. diameter stones, shall be placed parallel to and outside of the stone diaphragm, in contact with each other and without any gaps.” During the site visit Ms. Barksdale observed that the stone diaphragm is shown on the plan but was not built, and the rock wall was not installed. The Commission needs the work on the rain garden either be; completed as shown on plan installing the stone diaphragm and the rock wall or have Seth from Dillis and Roy explain what the stone diaphragm is for, the purpose of the tree planting, explain that the rain garden will function without the stone diaphragm, certify the change in plan and install the rock wall in the right place.

8:28 Request for Certificate of Compliance- Public Hearing – 701 Main Street

Ms. Barksdale gave an overview of the project. The Certificate of Compliance (CoC) was previously issued in 2001 but the copy on file does not include the signature page. The applicant is requesting to reissue the CoC. The grass has established from the septic tank installation and Ms. Barksdale can attest that everything was built to plan. The applicant did reach out to the Select Board to have the fees waved. Mr. Colman moved to issue the Certificate of Compliance and Ms. Green seconded, all voted yes.

8:31 Enforcement Order – 43 Kinsley Road

Landowner, Mr. Armand Porrazzo was present and submitted a written restoration plan with the assistance of Tera Friedrichs. Mr. Porrazzo hired an engineering company to look into his deed. The Commission and Mr. Porrazzo looked at the aerial imagery of the property. The imagery through the years show the trailers/sheds moving and other materials stored on the property and a potential vernal pool. Mr. Porrazzo is aware of the

various materials like tires and hot tubs stored on his property. His main concern is the compost pile with Japanese knotweed, he is worried that it will be difficult to remove. He is considering moving the compost pile to the front of the yard out of the buffer zone and would like to utilize the wattles and silt fencing he previously bought. The Commission would like to conduct a site visit to see the property in person. A visit was scheduled for December 10th at 2:30pm.

Administrative Updates

8:32 Review and Approve Meetings Minutes

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the 11.20.24 minutes with Ms. Green's edits. Ms. Green moved and Ms. Peters seconded, all voted yes.

9:07 Habitat for All

Ms. Green gave a minute summary of Habitat for All and suggested that the commission let the Planning Department present on the topic, everyone was interested. Ms. Barskdale will schedule the presentation.

9:15 Best time for site visits

Some Commissioners like room 9 and others like 204, both rooms are not ideal. Ms. Barskdale will decide which room they will meet in 2025. The Commission will continue to meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, with two exceptions January and May.

9:24 The meeting closed at 9:24PM

The Chair asked for a motion to end the meeting. Ms. Colman moved to end the meeting and Mr. Hocknell seconded.

Documents and exhibits used at this meeting:

12-04-2024 Meeting Information					
Edit Selected... Add...		Type	Title	Owner	Modified Date
<input type="checkbox"/>		12-04-2024.pdf		obarksdale	11/27/24
<input type="checkbox"/>		Acton Project Agreement.pdf		obarksdale	12/04/24
<input type="checkbox"/>		Minutes_11.20.24_DRAFT.docx		obarksdale	12/02/24
<input type="checkbox"/>		104 Concord Road NOI		obarksdale	11/21/24
<input type="checkbox"/>		358 Great Road NOI		obarksdale	11/21/24
<input type="checkbox"/>		416 Great Road NOI		obarksdale	11/21/24
<input type="checkbox"/>		43 Kinsley Road EO		obarksdale	11/21/24
<input type="checkbox"/>		506 Acorn Park Drive Haz Tree		obarksdale	11/21/24
<input type="checkbox"/>		701 Main Street CoC		obarksdale	11/27/24
<input type="checkbox"/>		96 Newtown Road CoC		obarksdale	11/21/24

All Documents can be found at:

<https://doc.actonma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-18702>

