

**Stow Conservation Commission
Minutes
January 30, 2024**

A meeting of the Stow Conservation Commission was held on January 30, 2024 at 7:30 pm remotely VIA Zoom Videoconferencing in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order on Remote Meeting participation.

There were present: Matt Styckiewicz, Chair
Holly Clack, Vice Chair
Serena Furman
Liza Mattison
Ingeborg Hegemann Clark
Jeff Saunders
Stephanie Lynch

Also Present: Kathy Sferra, Conservation Director
Jacquie Goring, Conservation Assistant

Minutes – *Liza Mattison moved to approve the minutes of January 16, 2024 as drafted. Holly Clack seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. Holly Clack moved to approve the Executive Session minutes of January 16, 2024 as amended. Liza Mattison seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Wetlands Permitting Issues:

- Request for Redline Change to Approved Plan – 168 North Shore Drive – DEP #299-711 – Ryan Proctor, Dillis and Roy, was present. An Order of Conditions was issued for the proposed work in March 2022. According to the existing plan, replacement of the upper walkway is still proposed using Unilock permeable pavers. They are no longer proposing to expand and reconnect the existing concrete patios that are adjacent to the house. Instead of replacing the existing steps to the lake with concrete side walls and field stone steps, they are proposing more natural flat stones with weathered boulders on the side. The lower patio is still proposed with Unilock permeable pavers which will replace the existing concrete pad. Landscape architects have been hired and now propose to replace the existing vegetation between the existing retaining walls. The applicant would like to remove 3 additional white pines, one within the 35' no disturb buffer.

Proctor explained the trees and locations on the plan. The Commission noted that the approved plan included plantings all the way across the retaining walls and asked for clarification on the proposed landscape area. Proctor explained the landscape architect plan noting the proposed shrubs have been spread out more and the quantity of plantings has increased. Goring thought there were more grasses and fewer shrubs proposed. The landscape designer said the number of shrubs is the same, but they moved them into slightly different spots. Goring clarified that

the planting bed along the shoreline cannot extend beyond what is shown on the Dillis and Roy plan because there is a floodplain there that cannot be filled. Proctor said the erosion control barrier will serve as the limit of work on the top of the existing rock revetment and work will not extend into floodplain. *Ingeborg Hegemann Clark made a motion to approve the redline changes as presented. Holly Clack seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

- Request for Extension of Order of Conditions – Shepherd Woodlands/Stow Conservation Trust – DEP #299-702 – Sferra noted that the Stow Conservation Trust (SCT) has requested an extension because they have not started the work. SCT did not specify the length of the request, Sferra recommended one year. *Holly Clack made a motion to extend the Order of Conditions for one year. Serena Furman seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Review/Approve Order of Conditions: 63-65 White Pond, Bransfield – DEP #299-734 – The Commission reviewed the draft decision. *Serena Furman made a motion to approve the Order of Conditions for 63-65 White Pond as amended. Holly Clack seconded and the motion was approved 5-0-2; Jeff Saunders and Stephanie Lynch abstained.*

Review/Approve Hallock Point Conservation Restriction to Stow Conservation Trust – The Conservation Restriction has been approved for signature by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Having no objections, *Holly Clack made a motion to approve the Conservation Restriction for 0 Sudbury Road/Hallock Point as drafted. Liza Mattison seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Review/Approve 2024 Farm License Renewals:

- Jesse Steadman – Taproot Farm – Captain Sargent Conservation Area – *Serena Furman made a motion to approve the license agreement for Taproot Farm at Captain Sargent Conservation area. Liza Mattison seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*
- Steve Mong – Applefield Farm – Noonan Field – *Liza Mattison made a motion to approve the license agreement for Applefield Farm at Noonan Field. Holly Clack seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Review/Approve 2023 Annual Report – The Commission reviewed the annual report. *Jeff Saunders made a motion to approve the 2023 Annual Report. Holly Clack seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Review/Discuss Draft Stow Climate Action Plan – The Green Advisory Committee is looking for comments on the plan. The turnaround time for comments is short and due on February 9th. Goring and Sferra reviewed the plan and put together some working comments and will prepare a letter. Not having a representative from the Commission during most of the Committee's preparation, Sferra felt that some of what pertains to the Commission needs more work and is willing to help the Committee with that. *Ingeborg Hegemann Clark made a motion to authorize Commission staff to issue a letter responding to the Climate Action Plan. Serena Furman seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Staff and Commission Member Updates:

- Stow Acres – The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) held their first hearing for the 40B development on the North course. It went very well with a lot of support. Wetlands will be discussed at the April 8th ZBA meeting. Sferra has asked Mark O’Hagan to either file with the Commission or have a pre-application presentation of the plan prior to April 8th.
- Cottages at Wandering Pond Update – The team presented to the Planning Board the changes that the Commission discussed at the last meeting. The Planning Board seemed agreeable with the changes but did have a number of other issues for the applicant to consider. They come back before the Commission on March 19th.
- 74 Pine Point Update – A proposed restoration plan was submitted by the deadline set in the Enforcement Order. They will be at the February 20th meeting since the February 6th meeting was cancelled. Goring and Sferra are reviewing the information they submitted. Goring commented that it is in keeping with what was approved and they will be restoring the site with minor exceptions. She will see if they would agree to more plantings.
- MACC Conference – Sferra will be attending the MACC Conference. There is funding for members who want to attend.
- New DEP Wetland Regulations – The regulations are out for public comment. They released a comprehensive package of proposed changes focused on climate resilience. Most relate to how stormwater calculations are performed. There is a section relating to Chapter 91 in coastal areas. Sferra suggested setting aside time at a future meeting to discuss what’s being proposed and what it means for us rather than staff reviewing and commenting. She thought most of the changes will relate to larger projects.
- The February 6th meeting has been cancelled.
- There will be an open house for Stow Acres on February 12th at Pompo Community Center from 2PM-5PM and again from 6:30PM-8:30PM.

At 8:33 PM, Holly Clack made a motion to adjourn. Serena Furman seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Rich, Minutes Clerk

Materials Used at Meeting

Meeting Packet
Draft Stow Climate Action Plan