

**Stow Conservation Commission
Minutes
November 17, 2020**

A meeting of the Stow Conservation Commission was held on November 17, 2020 at 7:30 pm in the evening by remote Meeting VIA Zoom Videoconferencing in accordance with the Governors' Executive Order on Remote Meeting participation.

There were present: Serena Furman, Vice-Chair
Andy Snow
Ingeborg Hegemann Clark
Matt Styckiewicz
Doug Morse
comprising a quorum of the Commission

Absent: Jeff Saunders, Chair
Andy Bass

Also present: Kathy Sferra, Conservation Coordinator
Tom Porcher, Associate Member

Serena Furman called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Minutes:

Andy Snow made a motion to approve the minutes of October 20, 2020 as amended. Ingeborg Hegemann Clark seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 on a roll call vote with Andy, Matt, Serena, Ingeborg, and Doug voting in favor.

Appointment – Red Aylward – 33 Hale – Request for Redline Plan Modification

Red and Noel Aylward were present. Red explained that he is seeking to modify the design of the shoreline protection structure that was approved on his lot. He presented a sketch drawn by Greg Roy at Ducharme and Dillis showing a more upright, vertical wall than originally approved. In Red's opinion, this is a better solution that will help save some of the shrubs along the shoreline. Filter fabric will still be placed behind the wall and it will still be constructed from fieldstone. The Commission wondered whether there would be reflection of wave energy from the more vertical construction, but it was agreed that should not be an issue. Sferra will still do a preconstruction site visit with the contractor. *After discussion, Ingeborg Hegemann Clark moved to accept the plan as a red line change to the originally approved plan. Andy Snow seconded and the motion was approved 5-0 on a roll call vote with Andy, Matt, Serena, Ingeborg, and Doug voting in favor.*

Request for Certificate of Compliance – 227 Harvard Road

Kathy Sferra noted that there had been a prior request for a COC for the property that resulted in the discovery of a dog fence built in the 35' buffer. The applicants were required to submit a request for an amendment. This was approved and recorded and now the applicants are again seeking a COC. There are no additional issues, and staff recommends approval. *Andy Snow moved to issue the Certificate of Compliance. Matt Styckiewicz seconded and the motion was approved 5-0 on a roll call vote with Andy, Matt, Serena, Ingeborg, and Doug voting in favor.*

Public Hearing – Joanne Drive – Notices of Intent for Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 - Lundy

Serena Furman opened the continued public hearing. Paul Kirchner was present from Stamski and McNary and presented revised plans reflecting changes that were made since the last public hearing. On all of the lots, they have added walkways and other impervious surfaces. On Lots 3 and 4 they have added silt fence along the front of the lots to help prevent runoff into the street and drainage system as requested by the Commission. The Commission discussed extending the silt fence onto a portion of Lot 2 and agreed to address this in the Order of Conditions and site inspection, rather than requiring a revised plan. There were no further comments from the public. *Andy Snow moved to close the hearings for Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 on Joanne Drive. Ingeborg Hegemann Clark seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0 on a roll call vote with Andy, Matt, Serena, Ingeborg, and Doug voting in favor.*

The Commission discussed draft decisions for the four lots and added a requirement for extension of erosion controls on Lot 2. *Ingeborg Hegemann Clark moved to issue Orders of Conditions for Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 as amended. Andy Snow seconded and the motion was approved 5-0 on a roll call vote with Andy, Matt, Serena, Ingeborg, and Doug voting in favor.*

Coordinator's Report

Kathy Sferra noted that construction has commenced on the Hudson Road Culverts and encouraged Matt and Ingeborg to take a lot if they are in the area. She also noted that she was scheduled to present at Stow Conservation Trust's Annual Meeting on wildlife seen on trail cameras.

Public Hearing – 44 Pine Point – Notice of Intent – Cramer

Serena Furman opened the continued public hearing. Present for the applicant were Art Allen from EcoTech, Kevin Quinn of Quinn Engineering and Danny Correia, site contractor. The team summarized changes that have been made since the last public hearing, noting that revised plans were submitted, reviewed by staff, and then further revised for the hearing tonight. Allen and Quinn summarized the changes including removal of the middle retaining wall, and a proposed full structural replacement of the retaining wall along the shoreline to the same height and on the same footprint. They are proposing to construct a temporary pad in the 35' buffer to allow an excavator to work along the shoreline and that area will be re-graded and restored following construction. They have added dock dimensions to the plan and the deck will be replaced in the same location. He noted that they have added one maple and one oak to the plantings. All disturbance in the 35' buffer will be temporary. Quinn noted that the pad is at elevation 205 and will be 18'x18' with a 2:1 slope to access it. He summarized the overall environmental benefits of the project including removal of a cesspool that is currently located 50' from the Lake, and installation of a FAST treatment system. The underground chamber for roof runoff is also a benefit and has been moved to the other side of the lot. Also the house has been pulled back from the Lake. He noted that they will pull back concrete that is under the deck and replace it with crushed stone. The Commission clarified that the trees are still proposed for removal and noted that they were pleased that the stairway and deck have been relocated back to the middle of the lot with the steep slope at the northern edge of the lot left natural. The applicant noted that given open issues with the ZBA and the Board of Health, it would be their preference to continue to the next available meeting in the event that there are any further plan changes. *Andy Snow moved to continue the hearing until 12/15/20 on or after 7:30 pm. Doug Morse seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0 on a roll call vote with Andy, Matt, Serena, Ingeborg, and Doug voting in favor.*

Collings – Report on Site Visit to Gravel Pit Restoration

Kathy Sferra reported that she, Jesse Steadman, and Sue Carter had visited the Collings site earlier today. The former gravel pit has been re-graded and seeded and looks good. The plantings are in, though not in exactly the places that they were supposed to be put. She noted that the invasive species removal effort has de-vegetated the slope and the area around the stream and was concerned about the condition of the area. She reviewed the invasive species removal plan and it did call for cutting everything on the slope and then letting it grow back for a season before doing spot treatments. It was agreed that it would be a good idea for Collings to arrange to have a seed mix spread over the area to stabilize it. Doug will send some suggestions. Sferra will follow up with Collings.

Coordinator & Commission Member Reports:

- Sferra updated the Commission on a meeting recently held regarding the Lake Boon dam with the Highway Department. She has suggested that the consultants have a pre-application meeting with the Commission.
- Sferra noted that she had recently toured a number of the town's conservation properties with the new Town Administrator.
- Sferra noted that Conservation Assistant Jacquie Goring will be back on December 1st. It appears that the 12/1 meeting can be cancelled as there are no new hearings and would provide a welcome break. Staff is working on the schedule for next year and building in an extra week to the hearing process in the hope that DEP file numbers will be received in time for the hearing.
- The Commission thanked Andy Snow for her service to the Conservation Commission as this was her last meeting.

Adjournment – *Ingeborg Hegemann Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. Andy Snow seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 on a roll call vote with Andy, Matt, Serena, Ingeborg, and Doug voting in favor.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Sferra
Conservation Coordinator

Materials Used during the November 17, 2020 Conservation Commission Meeting:

Plans for 44 Pine Point
Sketch Plan and emails regarding 33 Hale
Plans for Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 Joanne Drive
Photos of the Collings Gravel Pit Site Visit