

Acton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 20th, 2024
7:15 PM
Hybrid Meeting (Room 09 & Zoom)

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

Public Concerns and Regular Business

7:17 Terry Maitland, Chair opened the meeting at 7:17pm.

7:17 Public Concerns

7:17 Hazard Tree – 506 Acorn Park Drive

Ira Wolf, landowner presented his request to have 14 trees (various species) removed from his property. The presentation showed the trees location, estimated wetland buffer lines, HOA abutters approval, arborist letter with chart detailing the condition of individual trees. The request is focused on the safety concerns of the trees due to their proximity to the house. Many Commissioners were concerned that several trees were in the wetlands and that the smaller trees should not be cut (under 5" DBH). There was a discussion about the possibility of trimming branches instead of full removal, and requesting that shrubs be planted for mitigation. The Commission wants to revisit their Hazard Tree Policy and make it more robust. The work does not fit well under a RDA permit, making it difficult to regulate. A few members of the Commission felt that there was not enough information to make a decision. Mr. Maitland requested that the Commission meet with the arborist to discuss the trees. Mr. Wolf will need to get permission to remove his selected trees on another abutting parcel. Discussion continued to December 4th at 7:15pm.

8:18 Notice of Intent –Public Hearing –104 Concord Road

Paul Kirchner from Stamski and McNary gave an overview of the cemetery expansion project. The expansion includes the construction of a paved driveway around the lawn, infiltration basin within the buffer zone to manage stormwater runoff and restoration of the dirt road/gravel drive. The tree line will be altered, and trees removed. Majority of the work is outside of the buffer zone. The unofficial trail will not be blocked. Debra Simes, 109 Concord Road had a few questions for Mr. Kirchner. "What is the Conservation Seed mix", the seed mix is from New England Wetland Plant, New England Wet Mix. "Will trees be taken out on the North and East road", trees will be removed in and out of the buffer zone. "What is the distance from the new road", about 40 feet. Mr. Kirchner needs to follow up with the Cemetery Department and ask if native plants will be used, their plans for snow removal (boulders as deterrents and signs), ways to block car access,

alternative location for landscape debris, no mow areas, provide pre and post impervious numbers, identify stock pile location outside of the buffer zone and prepare to monitor the restoration site for 2-3 years. The comments for Mr. Kirchner to follow up on may become special conditions. No DEP #, Continued to Dec 4th at 7:20pm.

8:59 Notice of Intent –Continued Public Hearing –416 Great Road #085-XXXX

Paul Kirchner from Stamski and McNary gave an overview of the project. He responded to the DEP informal comments about stormwater standards and updated the NOI form to show the quantity of wetland resource alterations. Mr. Kirchner will send a copy of their response to DEP to the Commission. The area has a 1% chance of flooding, the land is not in Bordering Land Subject to Flooding. Work will be done during low flow and they will have a pumping component to divert the water. Mr. Kirchner needs to follow up with documentation of the stock pile location, details on the dewatering, details on dewatering the trench (might be dirty water), details on the material the top (may be mud, sand, gravel). The landowner will have to sign the O&M. No DEP #, Continued to Dec 4th at 7:25pm.

9:11 Notice of Intent–Continued Public Hearing-358 Great Road 085-1368

Paul Kirchner from Stamski and McNary gave an overview of the project. The project will add an addition to the single-family home and re-build the office building within the 200-foot riverfront area. The project has been submitted to the Select Board and ZBA. The Historical Commission is also reviewing the project. The building is on the cultural resource list. The dimensions of the proposed additions have changed, the office footprint has remained the same. More pavement will be removed, and a stormwater infiltration trench will be built. A stormwater report was submitted to the Commission. All of the gravel will be removed and planted with loam and seed (native wildlife mix), details will be provided. Mr. Kirchner also needs to see if the family can commit to mowing the area no less than once a year. The project still needs the Select Board and ZBA approval, although significant changes are not anticipated the applicant would like to continue to be safe. Continued to Dec 4th at 7:30pm

9:22 Enforcement Order – 43 Kinsley Road

Ms. Barksdale was unable to schedule a site visit, the landowner refused. Mr. Porrazzo was present and stated that he was not able to submit the restoration plan due to illness. He promised that he will email the plan by the end of the week. He is concerned about the contaminated organic soil stored on the property. It is infested with Japanese knotweed. The fines are placed on hold. He has to submit the restoration plan and list of materials by Nov 27 at noon, if he fails to submit the plan the fines will be reinstated.

9:45 Certificate of Compliance – 106 Hosmer Street

Ms. Barksdale conducted a site visit for the CoC. All of the grass planted has established and is thriving. Mulch was installed in the back of the house; the landowner was

concerned nothing would grow because of the low light and high moisture. The Conservation Commission was not informed of this change of plan. The landowner has to remove the mulch and plant permanent stabilization vegetation.

10:04 Town Staff Presentation: CISMA MOU

Ms. Barksdale gave a presentation on the CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) SuAsCo (Sudbury-Assabet-Concord River Watershed) relating to invasive species management and regional collaboration. She requested that the Conservation Commission vote to sign the MOU and join the regional partnership with other towns and non-profits. Conservation Staff will fulfil MOU requirements. Mr. Hocknell moved to approve the signature and Ms. Green seconded, all voted yes.

Administrative Updates

10:07 Review and Approve Meetings Minutes

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the 11.06.24 minutes with Mr. Hocknell's edits. Mr. Hocknell moved and Ms. Green seconded, all voted yes.

10:09 The meeting closed at 10:09PM

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

Documents and exhibits used at this meeting:

11-06-2024 Meeting Information

Edit Selected... Add...							
<input type="checkbox"/>	Type	Title	Owner	Modified Date	Size	Actions	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PDF	11-06-2024.pdf	obarksdale	10/31/24	233 KB	📄 ☆ ...	
<input type="checkbox"/>	DOCX	Minutes_10.16.24_DRAFT.docx	obarksdale	10/31/24	101 KB	📄 ☆ ...	
<input type="checkbox"/>	📍	15 Main Street NOI	obarksdale	10/31/24	0	📄 ☆ ...	
<input type="checkbox"/>	📍	25 Grasshopper Lane NOI	obarksdale	10/31/24	0	📄 ☆ ...	
<input type="checkbox"/>	📍	358 Great Road NOI	obarksdale	10/31/24	0	📄 ☆ ...	
<input type="checkbox"/>	📍	416 Great Road NOI	obarksdale	10/31/24	0	📄 ☆ ...	
<input type="checkbox"/>	📍	43 Kinsley Road EO	obarksdale	10/31/24	0	📄 ☆ ...	
<input type="checkbox"/>	📍	531 Great Road RDA	obarksdale	10/31/24	0	📄 ☆ ...	
<input type="checkbox"/>	📍	75 Robbins CoC	obarksdale	10/31/24	0	📄 ☆ ...	

All Documents can be found at:

<https://doc.actonma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-18627>