



TOWN OF WEST NEWBURY

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

381 Main Street, West Newbury, Mass. 01985

TEL: 978-363-1100 x126 FAX: 978-363-1119

West Newbury Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 20, 2017

Members Present: Dawne Fusco (Chair), Tom Atwood, Tracy Peter and Wendy Reed.
Conservation Agent Jay Smith was present.

Cont. Public Hearing --- Notice of Intent --- Cottage Advisors for Drakes

Landing, 365 Main St. (DEP# 78-679) --- The applicant would like to construct an open space development with the roadway intruding into the buffer zone and bordering vegetated wetland.

Request for a continuance from applicant approved.

Public Hearing --- Request for Determination of Applicability --- Comcast for Hilltop Circle

--- Applicant wants to install underground cable within the buffer zone to a bordering vegetated wetland.

John Farnum (Comcast) was present. He explained that the project involved temporary disturbance of the road shoulder for the installation of a cable line. The total project will not take long and the line will be backfilled every day. T. Atwood made a motion to issue a Neg. 3 decision requiring erosion control and the site stabilized with hay and seed when finished. W. Reed seconded the motion with a unanimous vote of approval. (4-0) Work will be allowed in the winter.

Cont. Discussion: Terry Hartford representing the Homeowners Association at Rivermeadows --
- Management plan for the conservation area.

Mr. Hartford attended the meeting and presented a list and sketch describing what he wanted to do. The commission asked for more detail to the sketch to help with identifying each area and the work proposed.

Cont. Discussion: Anthony and Elaine Poretta, 463 Main St. --- No Cut zone cutting request.

The Poretas attended the meeting. In addition to cutting in the natural vegetation area the Poretas installed a patio under their deck. The Commission described to them what a natural vegetation area is, its function and limitations on disturbance, and what the homeowner's

responsibilities are. The Poretta asked if they could plant in that area to prevent being overrun by tall plants against the patio. The Commission responded that it would consider a request supported by a planting plan consisting of native plants and would review such a plan upon submission. In the meantime the Poretta were told to stop cutting in the natural vegetation area and to do no more work in the buffer zone without a permit.

Discussion: Tim Collins for 15 Church St. --- Amended Order request.

Tim Collins was present and presented a revised plan to raze and rebuilt the home. Considering the distance from the wetlands greater than 75 ft., the level topography, and the location of an area to stockpile the material, W. Reed made a motion to issue an Amended Order with the same conditions as the original order with the exception that work in the winter would be permitted provided that any problems observed by the agent would be dealt with in a timely manner. T. Atwood seconded the motion with a unanimous vote of approval. (4-0)

Discussion: 6 Captain Pierce Dr. --- Site visit request.

Before making a decision or setting a site visit the Commission asked for some guidance from the Town Counsel.

Discussion: Ann O'Sullivan, 56 Ash St. --- Request to work during the winter.

Terry O'Sullivan was present. Considering the topography and the installation of erosion controls the Commission agreed to allow the cutting of trees only in the permitted area in the winter with the condition that stumps would remain in place, undisturbed.

Discussion: Minutes

The minutes were deferred to the next meeting.

The next scheduled Con Com meeting **Monday, December 4, 2017**