



Community & Economic Development Division
Conservation/Zoning Board of Appeals

Municipal Office Building
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0907

**Conservation Commission Minutes – March 27th, 2025
at 5:30 PM via Zoom**

Disclosure: Pursuant to Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, An Act Relative to Extending Certain Covid-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, this meeting of the Conservation Commission for the Town of Bridgewater will be hybrid and accessible to the public through remote participation to the greatest extent possible. There will be no public attendance permitted.

Citizens who wish to tune in to the meeting may do so via Zoom.

Virtual Zoom Meeting to Attend Via Video, Click on the Link Below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84097488539>

To Attend Via Phone Dial: +1 305 224 1968

Meeting ID: 840 9748 8539

****Meeting minutes are a summary of meeting discussions. For full detail, please visit the Bridgewater Conservation Commission Youtube page in the link provided below.****

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9sUW3YoZPBG-DhOVZY07MbwE0Odw-Axj>

Attendees:

Present: Wendy Smith, Chair, Marilyn MacDonald, Vice Chair, Eileen Prisco, Member, Harry Bailey, Member, Mark Peterson, Member, Katelyn Putt, Conservation Agent

Chair Smith reads the Governors Order and shares how the meetings proceed.

Vice-Chair MacDonald makes a motion for the RDA MBTA Right-of-Way to be first on the agenda, Member Harry Bailey Seconds the motion. All members were in favor.

Public Hearings

New Business

Request for Determination of Applicability – MBTA Right-of-Way Work – **Map Lot**

Applicant/Representative: Ana Rita Pascoal, Keolis Commuter Services/ Matt Donovan, Benesch

DEP File #: SE116-

Vice-Chair MacDonald reads the legal ad into the record.

Matt Donovan from Benesch is present on behalf of the application.



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Mr. Donovan presents the Right-of-Way site plans and explains this application is to confirm the accuracy of the maps used for herbicide application along the railway. The RDA application for this work is submitted to the commission every five years before the renewal of the 5- year vegetated management plan with the Mass Department of Agricultural Resources. Vegetation management includes both mechanical (roadbed treatment) and chemical methods (brush treatment) to keep the railway clear and safe. The maps depict which areas of the railroad receive what methods, taking into account sensitive environmental areas.

Chair Smith asks for clarification on the timeline for the treatments. May to June is roadbed treatment, August to September is the brush treatment. Mr. Donovan explains the brush program involves spraying further out from the tracks to target areas adjacent to the roadbed. The brush program does not occur within areas of Conservation Commission jurisdiction.

Member Peterson asks if the work takes into account the aquifer protection overlays. Mr. Donovan confirms that it does.

Motion to close made by Member MacDonald, Seconded by Member Prisco

Roll call:

Member Smith: YES
Member MacDonald: YES
Member Peterson: YES
Member Prisco: YES
Member Bailey: YES

Motion to issue a positive 2a determination and negative determination made by Member MacDonald, Seconded by Member Bailey

Roll call:

Member Smith: YES
Member MacDonald: YES
Member Peterson: YES
Member Prisco: YES
Member Bailey: YES



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Old Business

Notice of Intent – 1010 Elm Street – Map 30 Lot 20

Applicant/Representative: Ciaran Naughton, C Naughton Group/ Edward Jacobs, PMP Consulting

DEP File #: SE116-1562

Ed Jacobs, Sam Cripps, and Mark Dibb from PMP Consulting are present on behalf of the applicant.

Greg Tansey, Town Engineer, reviewed latest submittal after the first stormwater review. The applicant revised plans to satisfactorily meet Mr. Tansey's previous comments.

Vice-Chair MacDonald recommends a peer review, as the NOI project involves replication in an ACEC area. Member Bailey, Prisco, and Peterson concur.

Motion to initiate peer review made by Member Prisco, Seconded by Member Peterson

Roll call:

Member Smith: ABSTAIN

Member MacDonald: YES

Member Peterson: YES

Member Prisco: YES

Member Bailey: YES

Administrative Items

1453 Plymouth Street (BRS) – Update

Agent Putt conducted a site visit accompanied by Mr. Arruda to inspect the ponds located on site. Agent Putt also referred to Historic Aerials.com, which provides aerial images of the site back to 1960. Based on the aerials reviewed, the ponds do not show up on site until 2001. The ponds are determined to be man-made.

Joe Arruda, the owner, is present. Mr. Arruda explains that there was no permitting process through DEP. DEP went out to the site to make sure Mr. Arruda was circulating water correctly.

Member Peterson asks for reasoning for digging the ponds. Mr. Arruda clarifies that the ponds were not dug, they are above ground, earth berms were created around the now existing ponds. The ponds are used to filter out sediment.



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With the information obtained, Agent Putt asks Commission if they have enough information to take a vote to lift the enforcement order.

Motion to lift the enforcement order made by Member MacDonald, Seconded by Member Prisco

Roll call:

Member Smith: YES
Member MacDonald: YES
Member Peterson: YES
Member Prisco: YES
Member Bailey: YES

Bridgewater Wetlands Protection By-Laws – Discussion

Agent Putt discusses adding stricter protection for ACEC areas within the town bylaws. Additionally, Agent Putt discusses the 25-foot no touch. Multiple members have discussed the potential of bumping the 25-foot no touch to 50-foot no touch.

Vice-Chair MacDonald discusses importance of having initial conversation about updating bylaws. Members can share ideas with Agent Putt to start the initial process of the eventual revamping of the wetlands bylaws.

Member Peterson discusses implementing 53G accounts, stricter bylaws on intermittent streams and vernal pools.

Members will send thoughts to Agent Putt to compile over time.

Minutes

02.13.25

02.27.25

Motion to accept minutes from 2.13.25 and 2.27.25 made by Member MacDonald, Seconded by Member Bailey

Roll call:

Member Smith: YES
Member MacDonald: YES
Member Peterson: YES
Member Prisco: YES



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Member Bailey: YES

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Member MacDonald, seconded by Member Bailey.