

Minutes
Conservation Commission
May 23, 2023

Attendance: David Miller, Chair, Zeke Nims, Steve Cohn, Reed Pugh, Martha Hoyt, Ann Storer, Elaine Vreeland, Administrator.

Cranberry Path, Middlesex Fells: Con't. Public Meeting Request for Determination of Applicability

Representative: Paul Galvin, Eagle Scout Applicant

Information Submitted: Revised Boardwalk Plan, dated May 23, 2023

It is proposed to construct a small bridge over an intermittent stream.

Paul proposed to reduce the span over the stream to 7'. He will use 2" x 6" planks on the decking, 4" x 4" wood on the spacers, and galvanized screws to prevent rust. He proposed sand to provide filling, stability, and transition. Members requested that he use nearby scavenged soil and stones to avoid bringing in materials. Work is proposed for summer into fall of 2023.

It was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous roll call vote with Reed Pugh abstaining to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability.

18 Sunset Road: Con't. Public Hearing, Notice of Intent

It is proposed to construct an addition on piers within a floodway.

It was moved, seconded, and approved by unanimous roll call vote to continue to June 13, 2023

Eversource at Cross Street: Con't. Public Hearing, Request for an Amended Order of Conditions.

It is proposed to change the method for underground, trenchless crossing of the Aberjona River on Cross Street from a jack and bore method to a horizontal directional drill methodology.

It was moved, seconded, and approved by unanimous roll call vote to continue to June 13, 2023

Extension Permits:

- MBTA at Winchester Station
 - Representatives: Tess Paganelli and Nathan Ray, MBTA
 - Information Submitted: Letter dated May 15, 2023.

It was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous roll call vote to issue a three-year Extension Permit.

- Wedge Pond Algae Treatment
 - Representative: None
 - Information Presented: Nick stated that the existing Order would soon expire, and the need for algae treatment in the pond is ongoing.

It was moved, seconded, and approved by unanimous roll call vote to issue a three-year Extension Permit.

Griffin Museum: Discussion

Ville Kansanen, Artist, and Crista Dix, Griffin Museum

An Exhibition Plan was submitted, showing two installations, materials, and proposed locations in Judkins Pond. One would have a strip entering the pond with floating platforms consisting of plates of sand and limestone plus mud from the pond, anchored to a weight at the bottom. The other had floating plates anchored to the bottom. Members spoke about the possible need for a Chapter 91 license, floodplain and floodway issues in the event of a storm, and some guarantee that the installation would not break loose during high flows. Zeke noted that mud at the bottom of Judkins Pond is contaminated and should not be disturbed. David spoke about the need for shoreline restoration sensitive to wildlife habitat after the installation is removed. The work is proposed for summer of 2023. The matter was left open for further consideration.

Town Day: Members discussed their goals for educational outreach and a schedule was made.

Lynch School: It was noted that the Notice of Intent would be filed by June 1st, and members wanted to ensure that the Applicants had the necessary methodology to calculate their Riverfront Area calculations.

10 Converse Place: David noted that Larry Beals had submitted another document to DEP, and town counsel had advised a reply, noted below in draft:

Dear Ms. [Mucciarone](#)

Please accept this email with our apologies for extending the discussion around this subject, but two items require comment in response to the May 15 letter from Mr. Beals regarding the 10 Converse Place LLC NOI

First: The letter references the April 12 email I submitted as reflecting my opinion. For the record, that email was first reviewed as to form by Winchester Town Counsel and then validated by a unanimous affirmative vote of the Winchester Conservation Commission before being forwarded to you

Second: The Winchester Conservation Commission continues to stand by the April 12 email as it and all actions and decisions we took prior to it are based on the Commission's careful reading and interpretation of the WPA and the subsequent application of our understanding to the NOI submitted by 10 Converse Place applicants. Let it be noted that the application of our understanding was aided in its objectivity by inclusion of materials from a peer reviewer and publicly available DEP documents

It was moved, seconded, and approved by unanimous roll call vote, excluding Zeke Nims, for David to reply to DEP.

Commission Logo: David said that it should be available soon, but wanted to have Reed give his opinion before a final choice is made.

Canoe Launches Above Center Falls Dam:

Members believe that a canoe could be put in anywhere along the river, and would not need a specific launch pad, and if there were to be one, it would need Select Board approval. Borregaard Beach was recommended.

MWRA Trees: There was no update, and the matter was continued to June 13.

Volunteer Suggestions: Steven Baker, Winchester Resident, sent an email saying that he could lead a volunteer team from his work, and was looking for suggestions. Commissioners suggested kiosks at Mt. Pisgah and Smith Pond, and a fall Aberjona Day to work on invasive plants from Davidson Park to Washington Park.

Bylaw Regulations: David stated that he had looked at regulations from neighboring towns, and had found possible samples/models. He said that he would be meeting with Beth Rudolph to determine whether we could use Town Counsel to draft them or whether we should hire outside counsel. The discussion was continued to June 13th.

Minutes: It was moved, seconded by unanimous roll call vote (with Reed Pugh abstaining) to approve May 9, 2023, May 16, 2023, and May 24, 2023.

Submitted by: Elaine Vreeland