



Medfield Conservation Commission

Town Hall · 459 Main Street · Medfield, Massachusetts 02052-2009

Minutes of Public Meeting, August 3, 2023, at 7:15 pm

This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Members Present: Chair Deborah Bero, John Woodhull, Kirsten Poler, Bobby Kennedy, Cat Scott, Michael Perloff

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Interim Agent Bob Hartzel

Others Present: Tracy Bock

At approximately 7:15 pm, Chair Deborah Bero called the Conservation Commission meeting to order and performed a roll call for attendance.

I. Announcements

- The Conservation Commission is actively seeking to fill openings for both full Commissioner Members and Associate Commissioners. Applicants should submit a letter of interest to both the Town Administrator and Conservation Commission.
- All Conservation Commission meetings are remote; however, the office is still open. Please call ahead if you need to come in.

II. Hearings

1. Request for a Determination of Applicability – 8 Tubwreck Road Applicant – Tracy Bock

Ms. Bero summarized the application for the Commission. Ms. Bock discussed that there is a dead tree that is 20 feet from her property line and is actually on the Meadow Common Land. She stated that if the tree does fall it will damage her property and she would like it removed. Mr. Hartzel did a site visit of the tree and the property. Mr. Hartzel showed pictures of the tree. He suggests that the tree should be cut down in its place and on the Meadow Common Land property to provide beneficial slowly decomposing organic material.

Ms. Scott made a motion for a Negative Determination of Applicability.

Mr. Woodhull seconded the motion

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 (Ms. Scott: aye; Mr. Kennedy: aye; Ms. Poler: aye; Mr. Perloff: aye; Mr. Woodhull: aye; Ms. Bero: aye.)

2. Notice of Intent – 2 Linden Court

Applicant – John O'Hara

Ms. Scott made a motion to continue the hearing to August 17, 2023 at the applicant's request

MINUTES APPROVED OCTOBER 5, 2023

Mr. Woodhull seconded the motion

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 (Ms. Scott: aye; Mr. Kennedy: aye; Ms. Poler: aye; Mr. Perloff: aye; Mr. Woodhull: aye; Ms. Bero: aye.)

III. Minutes

The minutes are moved to August 17, 2023.

IV. Updates/Discussions

1. Ms. Bero discussed developing a protocol for Enforcement Orders that can be used consistently. She advised that the Commission should review DEP guidance with regard to Enforcement Orders. In the meantime, she suggested that the issue related to unpermitted structures along the Medfield Rail Trail should be addressed by sending a letter to the Select Board to invite discussion on steps to resolve the matter.
2. Ms. Bero discussed the Medfield Wetland Bylaw fee structure. She has researched the fee structures of other nearby towns. Hopkinton was the most recently updated and she believes that this could be a good template to start with. Ms. Bero requested that the Commission review Hopkinton's fees for future discussion.
3. Ms. Bero sent out budget information prepared by Ms. De La Fuente for the Commission's review. This will be distributed on a monthly basis going forward. Ms. Bero would like to get a warrant article submitted in September or October. Ms. Bero went on to discuss signage and where to purchase signs. Mr. Kennedy discussed what is normally done by DPW and the vendor used. Mr. Woodhull discussed signs that have been placed unofficially on ConCom properties without ConCom review or permission. Mr. Kennedy stated that he believes that the Safety Committee put up signs for traffic and pedestrian safety measures.
4. Mr. Kennedy opened up the discussion of Danielson Pond. He mentioned that Ms. De La Fuente should start asking for information regarding two high hazard dams that require inspections bi-annually. Mr. Kennedy believes that it hasn't been done bi-annually. Mr. Kennedy stated that Par Engineering did these inspections for the Town in the past. Ms. Bero will look into files that she may have related to this. Ms. Bero and Mr. Kennedy will collaborate further on this.
5. Ms. Bero and Mr. Hartzel discussed the extension that is needed for the pond management Order of Conditions which will expire on August 23, 2023.
6. Ms. Bero mentioned that there was an abundance of trees that were removed along the railroad. Ms. Scott stated that Eversource is removing these trees. Ms. Scott stated that she has received letters from Eversource explaining the need for tree removal.
7. Ms. Scott updated the Commission on the Open Space & Recreation Plan. She stated that there were emails circulated from Ms. Bero and Mr. Potts regarding the updated plan. It was provisionally approved by all the other boards and the State. Mr. Potts sent an email with the State's comments. Ms. Scott stated that the plan had to be presented again to ConCom because of revisions needed in Section 8 (Goals and Objectives). Ms. Scott discussed the proposed revisions to this section.
8. Mr. Hartzel discussed items that will be coming up on the agenda. He stated that the 2 Linden Court NOI has been revised and will be presented on August 17, 2023. Mr. Hartzel mentioned that Medfield State Hospital will be in on August 17, 2023 to discuss the NOI for invasive species control. Mr. Woodhull asked Mr. Hartzel about the proposed fill at 2 Linden Court. Mr. Hartzel discussed the feedback from MassDEP on that issue. He stated that the project can result in up to 5000 square feet of new lawn in Riverfront Area, provided that a planting plan is proposed

which adequately mitigates for the impact to forested habitat. DEP will be paying attention to this application for conformance with Riverfront Area performance standards.

9. Ms. Bero suggested potentially having an additional meeting this month (on August 24, 2023) due to the extensive agenda on August 17, 2024 and because 2 Linden Court needs to have a continued hearing by August 24, 2023.

10. Medfield State Hospital Project/Trinity Development: N/A

11. DPW: N/A

IV. Adjournment

Mr. Kennedy motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:30 pm.

Ms. Scott seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 (Ms. Scott: aye; Mr. Kennedy: aye; Ms. Poler: aye; Mr. Perloff: aye; Mr. Woodhull: aye; Ms. Bero: aye.)

Respectfully submitted,
Cara Wise, Administrative Assistant