



Mayor
Charles C. Kokoros

Department of Planning and Community Development

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Christopher Hayward, Chair
Peter Williams, Vice Chair
Heather Charles Lis, Member
Diane Francis, Member
Giles Parker, Member
Hung Pham, Member

APPROVED

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES JUNE 29, 2023 MEETING (7PM) JOHNSON CHAMBERS

Present: Heather Charles Lis, Diane Francis, Christopher Hayward, Hung Pham, Peter Williams and Kelly Phelan, Conservation Planner

Absent: Giles Parker

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Request for Determination of Applicability 28 Ellery St./Mulkerrin

Martin and Erin Mulkerrin were present. Mr. Mulkerrin said they would like to construct a deck to increase their outdoor space. The closest corner of the proposed deck is 23 feet from the wetland. They will plant eight native shrubs and are looking at pink-shell azalea. The deck will be on footings.

Mr. Hayward said that the Commission is typically strict about the 25-foot no-disturb buffer zone but since the area is existing lawn and close to the house, he can see making an exception. Ms. Charles Lis agreed, noting that water flows through a deck as opposed to a roof or pavement. Ms. Francis said she was not concerned because the deck is on footings.

Motion: by Mr. Williams to issue a negative Determination of Applicability with conditions as drafted.

Second: by Ms. Francis.

Vote: In favor: 5, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0.

Motion: by Ms. Charles Lis to close the public hearing.

Second: by Ms. Francis.

Vote: In favor: 5, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0.

OTHER BUSINESS

50 Grove Circle - Enforcement

Ms. Phelan noted that the owner had removed three trees adjacent to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. She contacted the owner and directed them to hire a wetland scientist to develop a restoration plan. Brad Holmes, PWS with Environmental Consulting and Restoration, LLC, developed a restoration plan dated June 12, 2023. The plan calls for planting nine trees along the back edge of the fence which divides the yard from the wetland area. The

plan includes leaving the downed trees in place in order to prevent further disturbance and to provide wildlife habitat.

Mr. Pham noted that the restoration plan shows planting two of the nine trees over the property line on town-owned land. Ms. Phelan said that is conservation land. Members discussed and felt that it was acceptable for a few of the trees to be planted on the town land.

Motion: by Ms. Charles Lis to issue an Enforcement Order requiring compliance with the restoration plan prepared by ECR and to allow the owner to plant on town land and that work shall be overseen by the wetland scientists and a completion report provided to the Commission by October 31, 2023.

Second: by Ms. Francis.

Vote: In favor: 4, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 1 (Williams).

Watson Park Seawall Evaluation

Ms. Phelan noted that the Department of Public Works had hired Nitsch Engineering to perform a visual assessment of the retaining wall (seawall) at Watson Park. Storm surge during the winter caused water to upwell through the wall. She wanted the Commission to be aware of the issue. The recommendations from Nitsch range in scale and cost and she will discuss further with the DPW.

Ms. Phelan said she plans to file a Request to Amend the Order of Conditions for the berm project to allow for stabilization of the eroding section of coastal bank at the western end of the seawall.

Staff or Commission Updates

Ms. Charles Lis asked for an update on the Watson Park Coastal Resilience Project. Ms. Phelan said the salt marsh plugs are not putting out new growth. The contractor is replanting 800 plugs of *Spartina alterniflora* in the next week or two. She has been talking Coastal Zone Management and they encouraged the Town to apply for additional grant funding for monitoring and adaptive management because salt marsh restoration involves some trial and error based on unique site conditions.

Approval of Minutes – June 1, 2023

Motion: by Ms. Francis to approve the June 1, 2023 minutes.

Second: by Mr. Williams.

Vote: In favor: 4, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 1(Charles Lis).

Adjourn

Motion: by Ms. Francis to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Second: by Mr. Pham.

Vote: In favor: 5, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0.