

Meeting Minutes March 13, 2024

Members Present: Joseph Venezia – Co-Chair
Roger deBruyn – Co-Chair
Jerry Knouse
Steven Phifer
Carol Platenik

Public Present: Mark Rubin, Mark Morisi

Joseph Venezia opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Payables:

MOTION: Carol Platenik made a motion to approve payroll for the Clerk in the amount of \$403.92 for the period of 02/08/2024-02/21/2024.

SECOND: Roger deBruyn

VOTE: All

MOTION: Carol Platenik made a motion to approve payroll for the Clerk in the amount of \$523.26 for the period of 02/22/2024-03/06/2024.

SECOND: Jerry Knouse

VOTE: All

Chair, Member & Clerk Reports/emails:

Site Visit Coordination – 48 Palmer Road – MassDOT work

Joe Venezia contacted Billie Li regarding the MassDOT work at 48 Palmer Road. He stated that she wanted the Conservation Commission members to visit the site with them so everyone can view what happened there. Billie informed

Apple Road – Ciesla

The Conservation Commission Members asked if there had been any follow up from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding the complaint filed. The clerk stated she would follow up with DEP.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers letter - Quinebaug Cove

There was a discussion surrounding a letter from the Army Corp of Engineers informing the Commission of a request from Solitude Lake Management to perform chemical treatment at the swimming beach at Quinebaug Cove. They are asking for a consent letter from the Conservation Commission. Joe Venezia stated the Commission does not have jurisdiction, the Army Corp does. Joe stated he would reach out to DEP and the Army Corp of Engineers.

Minutes:

Approve minutes from the February 14, 2024, meeting

MOTION: Roger deBruyn made a motion to approve the 02/14/2024 minutes.

SECOND: Jerry Knouse

VOTE: All

Upcoming: RDA

Brookfield Road – Parcel 3C-7

There was a discussion regarding Brookfield Road, Parcel 3C-7. Jerry Knouse stated he saw wetland flags and red ribbons. He said it was a small area and did not see signs of a perk test. The clerk stated she would scan the plans and send to the members.

Certificate of Compliance

117-0398 111C Little Alum Road

MOTION: Roger deBruyn made a motion to issue the Certificate of Compliance for file 117-0398, 11C Little Alum Road.

SECOND: Jerry Knouse

VOTE: All

117-0394 - 242 Brookfield Road

MOTION: Jerry Knouse made a motion to issue the Certificate of Compliance for file 117-0394, 242 Brookfield Road.

SECOND: Roger deBruyn

VOTE: All

New Business

NOI – 117-040423 - 78 First Street

Mark Rubin, a Wetland Scientist presented the plan to the Commission Members. He stated the site was previously developed and had a gravel driveway. He showed on the plan how the lawn ended at the pond and there was a wall in front of the pond. He informed the Commission members that the intent was to removed the cottage that is there and to replace it with a newly constructed home, garage, and a paved driveway. He went on to say the septic tank would be removed and replaced. He said the only impact would be in the buffer zone and there would be no gradient change. He pointed out the erosion controls on the plan and said the Planning and Zoning Boards have approved the plan.

Roger deBruyn asked about two of the trees on the property (viewed on the plan). Mr. Morisi said those were not on his property. He stated there was only one rhododendron which will be removed. He said the piers that the cottage is on will be removed and there will be a full basement. Joe Venezia asked if the basement would be higher. Steve Phifer asked if they have a perimeter drain. Mr. Morisi said he hopes so. He stated there are five feet of rubble behind the wall. He said the work will not go more than 21 feet near the wall and there would be no gutters. Steve asked where the drains would go. Roger said the water cannot be dumped into the pond. He said there is a pipe that water is going through. Joe Venezia asked if there were gutters on the current cottage. Mr. Morisi said there were. Jerry Knouse said on the North side, the water goes into the neighbor's property. Jerry asked if there were swales. Mark Rubin indicated where the swales were on the lot. There was a discussion regarding storm water and where would the water from the roof go if the driveway was paved. Roger stated if the drive was paved, it adds more runoff. Steve Phifer asked who designed the septic

system. Mark Rubin said it was Mark Farrell. Steve said that Mr. Farrell should be able to show where the water can go. Mark Rubin stated that the septic was a pump system. Joe Venezia said he would like to see the drains indicated on the plans. He went on to say that Mr. Morisi could ask Mark Farrell to produce a good plan for draining the water.

Roger deBruyn asked where the equipment to remove the cottage would be located and where the line of wattles and silt barriers would be. Jerry Knouse asked those to be extended even beyond one hundred (100) feet. Jerry stated there was no place to stockpile the debris so it would need to be removed as they go. Roger said there is only 15-20 feet to work from the wall) so he would like to see the work there minimized. Mr. Morisi said the foundation is further back and the deck is on stilts (that is nearer to the wall). Roger suggested a site line to where the digging would occur should be made to ensure the wall stays intact. He said a silt fence or anything for the machine operator to see where they need to stay would work. Mr. Morisi said they will give a heads up to the builder regarding this.

Mark Rubin said there will be a new well. The Commission Members said there needs to be a slurry pit and it should be marked out so none of that goes into the lake. They added that wattles should surround the pit and once it is stabilized, they could be removed.

MOTION: Steve Phifer made a motion to continue this to the meeting on March 27, 2024.

SECOND: Carol Platenik

VOTE: All

Mark Morisi asked if he could trim the oak trees on neighbors' property. The Commission members said yes as long as the neighbor gives their permission.

MOTION: Steve Phifer made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Roger deBruyn

VOTE: All

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2024

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Plasse