

GEORGETOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION Minutes

January 25, 2024

Memorial Town Hall * One Library Street * Georgetown, MA 01833

Conservation Commissions Present: R. Bancroft, C. Candia, R. Chane, T. Howland, L. Umberger, I. Wye

Conservation Director: M. Grenier

Start of the Meeting:

At 7:02 pm, the meeting started with R. Chane (Chair) reading Governor Maura Healy's supplemental budget bill allowing for remote meetings

Minutes: The following meeting minutes were voted and approved

June 15, 2023; July 20, 202; September 14 ,2023; October 19, 2023; October 30, 2023;
November 7, 2023; November 16, 2023 and December 21, 2023

Certificates of Compliance:

1. 197 Jewett Street – DEP 161-0526 roadway

The Conservation Director had a site walk at 197 Jewett Street and all work was performance in accordance with the project. R. Bancroft made a motion to approve the CoC at 197 Jewett Street DEP 161-0526 (roadway); seconded by T. Howland – roll call vote motion approved

2. 3 Forest Street – DEP161-0538 (building)

The Conservation Director had a site walk and reviewed 3 Forest Street and the dwelling is in compliance with approved plan. R. Bancroft made a motion to approve the CoC at 3 Forest Street DEP 161-0538, seconded by T. Howland – roll call vote motion approved

3. 83 North Street – DEP 161-0934 (septic)

The Conservation Director stated that this is a septic replacement and most of the grass on the project has been established with a small area that has been re-seeded. R. Bancroft made a motion to approve; seconded by T. Howland – roll call vote motion approved

Request for Determination (RDA):

4. 37 Pillsbury Lane – Bryan Delaney applicant – continued from November 16, 2023

Prior to the presentation of a new plan from the applicant, Bryan Delaney, the Conservation Director was suggesting to issue a positive RDA with a potential retaining wall on the project. After presentation of the new project plan it was determined that the conservation commission re-visit the site to understand the changes. R. Bancroft made a motion for a site walk at 37 Pillsbury Lane for January 30, 2024 at 4pm; seconded by L. Umberger – roll call vote motion approved. R. Bancroft made a motion to continue 37 Pillsbury Lane to February 15, 2024 – seconded by T. Howland – roll call vote motion to continue approved.

Notice of Intent:

5. 20 Carleton Drive (GCC 2019-19); Remand Notice of Intent under By-Law only, proposed work within 100-feet of bordering vegetated wetlands.
The Conservation Commission does not have the abutter certificates for this project – need to continue. R. Bancroft made a motion to continue 20 Carleton Drive to February 15, 2024 – seconded by T. Howland – roll call vote motion to continue approved.

Business/Discussion Items:

6. Vote to allow the Conservation Director to determine dangerous, dead trees and trees damaged by wind, snow and rain to approve removal of trees in the field. Any request for trees greater than 3 will need to appear before the Conservation Commission and no approval of any tree removal with the 25' no cut/no disturb wetland boundary. R. Bancroft made the motion to approve; seconded by T. Howland; roll call vote motion approved.
7. Vote to authorize town counsel to respond to complaints and to the Attorney General
 - 7a – Open Meeting Law complaint against the conservation commission, filed by Kevin Wood dated October 20, 2023; acknowledge and discuss complaint; discuss response. R. Bancroft made a motion to authorize town counsel to respond to complaint of October 20, 2023 and to the AG's office- seconded by C. Candia – roll call vote motion approved
 - 7b. Open Meeting Law complaint against the Conservation Commission filed by Kevin Wood dated November 8, 2023; acknowledge and discuss complaint discuss response. R. Bancroft made a motion to authorize town counsel to respond to complaint dated November 8, 2023 and to AG's office – seconded by C. Candia – roll call vote motion approved
 - 7c. Open Meeting Law complaint against the Conservation Commission filed by Kevin Wood dated November 8, 2023 (second such complaint on same date); acknowledge and discuss complaint; discuss response. R. Bancroft made a motion to authorize town counsel to respond to the 2nd OML complaint dated November 8, 2023 and to AG's office – seconded by C. Candia. Roll call vote – motion approved.
 - 7d. Open Meeting Law complain against Conservation Commission, filed by Michael Donahue, dated November 12, 2023; acknowledge and discuss complaint; discuss response. R. Bancroft made a motion to authorize town counsel to respond to the OML complaint dated November 12, 2023 and to the AG's office – seconded by C. Candia. Roll call vote motion approved
8. Discuss comments made regarding the Conservation Commission at the January 8, 2024 Board of Selectmen's meeting. There were comments made about the conservation commission and negative letters referenced in regard to the conservation commission. The Conservation Commission would like to view these letters in efforts to address and repair any negative views of the commission. R. Bancroft made a motion to have the Conservation Director draft a letter on behalf of the Conservation Commission to the BOS asking for the letters – seconded by C. Candia. Roll call vote – motion approved.
9. Additional meeting minutes of October 20, 2023; November 7, 2023 and November 16, 2023 were addressed at the beginning of the meeting

10. Items not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting:

The Chair referenced a letter from the Conservation Commission to the Board of Selectmen dated, December 28, 2023, that was not voted on nor approved by the entire Conservation Commission. The letter recommended that the BOS vote to appoint Laura Replier to the Conservation Commission and not to appoint Steven Epstein to the open seat on the Conservation Commission. The Chair noted that this was a mistake, an error and will not be happening again – any suggestions or recommendations from the board will in the future be made in public at a regularly posted meeting. It was suggested by R. Bancroft that we draft a procedure for suggestions for appointing positions to the Conservation Commission in the future.

There was a comment from Kevin Wood asking the commission who were the members that suggested the Conservation Director write this email. I. Wye and L. Umberger confirmed it was not either of them; the remaining board had no comments.

Close Meeting:

R. Bancroft made a motion to close the meeting; seconded by L. Umberger – roll call vote all approve – motion to close carries