CONSERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Date: Thursday, November 9, 2023

Time: 7:00pm

Place: This meeting will be held as a virtual meeting via Zoom.

This will be a virtual meeting via Zoom. No in-person meeting will take place at City Hall. Click here to join by Zoom: https://newtonma-gov.zoom.us/j/89802265942 Contact jsteel@newtonma.gov or 617-796-1134 with any questions.

NOTE: In addition to the documents in the Commission's packet, full application plans and narratives

are available on the Commission's website.

NOTE: Times listed are estimates. Items may be taken out of order at the Chair's discretion. Discussion

may be limited by the Chair.

DECISIONS

A. WETLANDS DECISIONS

- 1. (7:00) 27 Boylston St RDA Chestnut Hill Shopping Center Paving Maintenance Project
 - Owner/Applicant. Chestnut Hill Shopping Center, LLC
 - Representatives. Val Locker, Tighe & Bond, Inc
- 2. (7:20) 5 Bound Brook Rd NOI SFH addition -- DEP File # 239-964
 - Owner/Applicant. Martin Son
 - Representatives. Goddard Consulting
- 3. (7:45) 59 Selwyn Rd MPC Request fence, removal of invasives, mitigation plantings -- DEP File # 239-895
 - Owner/Applicant. Irina Elkin
 - Representatives. Dan Burmenko (applicant)
- 4. (8:00) 149 Pleasant St -- OOC Extension Re-sign Mason Rice solar array -- DEP #239-844
 - Owner/Applicant. City of Newton, Public Buildings Department
 - Representatives. Bill Ferguson
- **B. CONSERVATION AREA DECISIONS**
- C. ADMNISTRATIVE DECISIONS
- D. ISSUES AROUND TOWN DECISIONS

UPDATES / DISCUSSION

- E. WETLANDS
- F. CONSERVATION AREAS
- G. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
- H. ISSUES AROUND TOWN

OTHER TOPICS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR 48 HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING ADJOURN



Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

> Director Planning & Development Barney Heath

Chief Environmental Planner Jennifer Steel

Assistant Environmental Planner Ellen Menounos

Commission
Members
Kathy Cade
Dan Green
Judy Hepburn
Ellen Katz
Susan Lunin
Jeff Zabel
Leigh Gilligan

Conservation

Associate Member Sonya McKnight

Contact Information 1000 Comm. Ave. Newton, MA 02459

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www.newtonma.gov

jsteel@newtonma.gov

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may be limited by the Chair.

DECISIONS

A. WETLANDS DECISIONS

1. (7:00) 27 Boylston St – RDA – Chestnut Hill Shopping Center Paving Maintenance Project

- Owner/Applicant. Chestnut Hill Shopping Center, LLC
- Representatives. Val Locker, Tighe & Bond, Inc
- Request. Issue negative determination.
- Project Summary.
 - Re-pave existing parking lot. 1.5-2" of pavement will be milled/removed/overlaid. 285 sf of impervious area will be removed within the 100 buffer zone by creating stone edge to northeast edge of the parking lot.
 - Undertake maintenance of rain gardens. Exposed impermeable liner will be removed and accumulated mulch will be removed. Riprap drainage channels to the rain gardens will be removed and replaced with river stone aprons.
 - Regrade mulched area and seed with a native, wet meadow seed mix to promote infiltration.
 - o Plant 3 canopy trees.
- <u>Documents in packets</u>. Site plans
- Additional documents presented at meeting. Site photos.
- Jurisdiction.
 - o 100-ft buffer zone to Inland Bank & BVW.
 - o FEMA flood Zone A (~165.4 NAVD88)
- Performance Standards.
 - o **Buffer Zone** 10.53(1): General Provisions: "... the Issuing Authority shall impose conditions to protect the interests of the Act identified for the adjacent Resource Area.
- Staff Notes.
 - o Installation of native vegetation and maintenance of stormwater features are technically exempt if erosion is controlled (10.02(2)(b)2.d. and 10.02(3), respectively.
 - $\circ\quad$ Parking lot repaving is not exempt, but it will not alter the adjacent wetland.
 - There are two places in the existing parking lot that could have asphalt removed and a planted infiltration feature installed – the most practical one is the very northern tip of the parking lot (a currently striped area).
 - Silt sock should be located further away from wetland, closer to the actual edge of anticipated disturbance.
 - More details should be provided about target species and proposed methods for invasives control efforts.



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Reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities requiring assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA/Sec. 504 Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: <u>ifairley@newtonma.gov</u> or (617) 796-1253. For Telecommunications Relay Service, please dial 711 or call City Hall's TTY/TDD line at 617-796-1089.

• Staff Recommendation. Once all concerns have been addressed, vote to issue a Negative 3 and Negative 6 DOA.

2. (7:20) 5 Bound Brook Rd - NOI - SFH addition -- DEP File # 239-964

- Owner/Applicant. Martin Son
- Representatives. Goddard Consulting
- Request. Issue OOC.
- Project Summary.
 - o Demolish the existing garage and foyer, construct a larger addition.
 - o Area of fill in FZ is only 6 sf.
 - Project will create 0.0025 cy of new flood storage.
 - o Garage floor of addition will be built on piles 3' above the flood elevation.
- Documents in packets. Highlighted plans.
- Additional documents presented at meeting.
- Jurisdiction.
 - FEMA flood Zone AE (~112.4 NAVD88)
- Performance Standards.
 - Bordering Land Subject to Flooding: 10.57
 - 1. Compensatory storage shall be provided for all flood storage volume that will be lost...
 - 2. Work shall not restrict flows so as to cause an increase in flood stage or velocity.
 - 3. Work in those portions of bordering land subject to flooding found to be significant to the protection of wildlife habitat shall not impair its capacity to provide important wildlife habitat functions.
- Staff Notes.
 - o South Meadow Brook flows 230' north of the site.
 - o A DEP file number has not been issued as of 10/31/2023.
 - o The following project elements described in the application are not shown on the Proposed Condition plan:
 - Inlet protection (in the street)
 - The proposed compensatory storage area
 - The following project elements described in the application are likely not pertinent to this project and should be deleted:
 - Temporary sediment basins
 - A construction entrance
 - Clearing and grubbing
 - The following has not been made clear in the application:
 - Existing vs. proposed grading
 - A stockpile area
 - Where pilings will be used and where a full foundation will be constructed
 - Whether the deck will be removed and replaced
 - Details of tree protection to be provided
- <u>Staff Recommendation.</u> If/once all questions have been addressed, vote to close the hearing and issue OOC with special conditions.

3. (7:45) 59 Selwyn Rd - MPC Request - fence, removal of invasives, mitigation plantings -- DEP File # 239-895

- Owner/Applicant. Irina Elkin
- Representatives. Dan Burmenko (applicant)
- Request. Cut vegetation that was outside the original limit of work but within Flood Zone to accommodate a fence around the property to contain dogs.
- Project Summary.
 - o Teardown/rebuild with an enhancement planting area
- <u>Documents in packets</u>. Approved plan, administrative approval for fence
- Additional documents presented at meeting. Site photos
- Jurisdiction. FEMA Flood Zone
- · Performance Standards.

Bordering Land Subject to Flooding: 10.57

3. Work in those portions of bordering land subject to flooding found to be significant to the protection of wildlife habitat shall not impair its capacity to provide important wildlife habitat functions.

Staff Notes.

- The house is complete, the enhancement plantings are in, landscaping is underway.
- The owner would like to install a fence for her dog. There was excess flood storage capacity provided during the work, so the fence, if elevated and open, would be admissible as minor plan change and would comport with the Commission's policy for construction in Flood Zone.
- o The vegetation is predominantly invasive species, and so much c/should be removed (and replaced?),
 - "Back Left": Trees: Japanese maple, Norway maples, apple. Sapling: common buckthorn. Shrub: honeysuckle.
 - "Back Right": Trees: Norway maple, black cherry. Shrub: burning bush, common buckthorn.
- Staff feel that the wildlife habitat value of the originally protected vegetation should not be lost, and a robust restoration planting plan should be required (and the plantings protected from trampling).
- · Staff Recommendation.
 - o Discuss and determine the nature of removal and planting that would be approvable and the permitting path forward.

4. (8:00) 149 Pleasant St -- OOC Extension Re-sign – Mason Rice solar array -- DEP #239-844

- Owner/Applicant. City of Newton, Public Buildings Department
- Representatives. Bill Ferguson
- Request. Issue OOC Extension Re-sign (the original was lost)
- <u>Project Summary</u>. At Mason Rice Elementary, install two solar canopies supported by columns, install new electrical conduits
 to connect the canopies to the grid with associated trenching, remove 2 trees, plant 29 trees in the adjacent Newton Center
 Playground area.
- Documents in packets. None
- · Additional documents presented at meeting. None
- <u>Jurisdiction</u>. RFA, BZ
- Staff Notes.
 - o This site (one site of many canopy installations) has been postponed due to contract and labor challenges.
 - o At 9/7/23 Con Com meeting, a 3-yr OOC extension was issued, to allow the project to proceed if possible.
 - The 9/7/23 document was lost
- Staff Recommendation. Vote to issue a re-signed COC.

B. CONSERVATION AREA DECISIONS – none at this time

C. ADMNISTRATIVE DECISIONS – none at this time

5. Minutes to be approved

- <u>Documents in packets</u>. Draft 10/19/2023 minutes
- <u>Vote</u> to approve the 10/19/2023 minutes reviewed by Susan Lunin.
- Volunteer. Who will volunteer to review the 11/9/2023 minutes?

D. ISSUES AROUND TOWN DECISIONS – none at this time

UPDATES / DISCUSSION

E. WETLANDS

- Toll Bros 40B schedule. NOI now likely in early spring, so no immediate concerns about "Mullin". Ellen Katz will miss some meetings due to grandchild care obligations
- **2 Wells Ave beaver dam.** There was a report of the ponding affecting Nahanton Street drainage during a very heavy rain storm. DPW has reached out to Beaver Solutions for an assessment and will likely file to install a pond leveling device.
- · Permitting construction of fences, sheds, and driveways in Flood Zone and Riverfront Area and Buffer Zone
 - These are the types of smaller projects with which staff struggle.

PROJECT	TRIGGER /	REQUIRED	CONCOM	Fill if in 2' of	CONCOM
	OTHER PERMIT	DOCUMENTS	PERMIT if in	Flood Elevation	PERMIT if in
			FZ		RFA and/or BZ
Fence, 0-4'	n.a.	n.a.	NOI	0.4 cy	Exempt (AA)
Fence, 4-6'	Zoning Permit	Sketch	NOI	0.4 cy	Exempt (AA)
Fence, >6'	Special Permit	Plans	NOI	0.4 cy	Exempt (AA)

Shed, <200 sf	Zoning Permit	Sketch	NOI	15 cy	Exempt (AA)
Shed, >200 sf	Building Permit	Plans	NOI	15 cy	Exempt (AA)
Driveway, remove/replace	Zoning Permit	Photos	AA	0 cy	Exempt (AA)
Driveway, expand/relocate	Zoning Permit,	Stamped	NOI	3.4 cy	NOI
(22'x25'x2")	Engineering Rev	plans			
Driveway, new	Zoning Permit,	Stamped	NOI	3.4 cy	NOI
(22'x25'x2")	Engineering Rev	plans			

- The Commission has 2 policies for construction in FZ: (1) 110% flood storage compensation is required, (2) fences require an NOI and shall not restrict flow, to clarify the state regulation language.
- Staff wonder about:
 - defining a de minimus volume of fill for which no compensation would be required, and/or
 - allowing compensatory flood storage to be provided at lower elevations for small projects or where foot-for-foot compensation is not achievable.
- Staff have also considered creating a "template" NOI and OOC for such small projects to facilitate applications and permits.
- o Staff are working to improve the City permitting portal to facilitate coordination across departments.

F. CONSERVATION AREAS

- Newton Stewards walk at Saw Mill Brook took place on Thursday 10/26. We had a nice turn out of about 10 people on a beautiful afternoon and enjoyed snacks and conversation afterwards.
- **Upper Falls River Walk.** Staff will investigate "rights" over a possibly shared right-of way and then ask our Land Managers to install boundary markers.

G. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS – none at this time

H. ISSUES AROUND TOWN

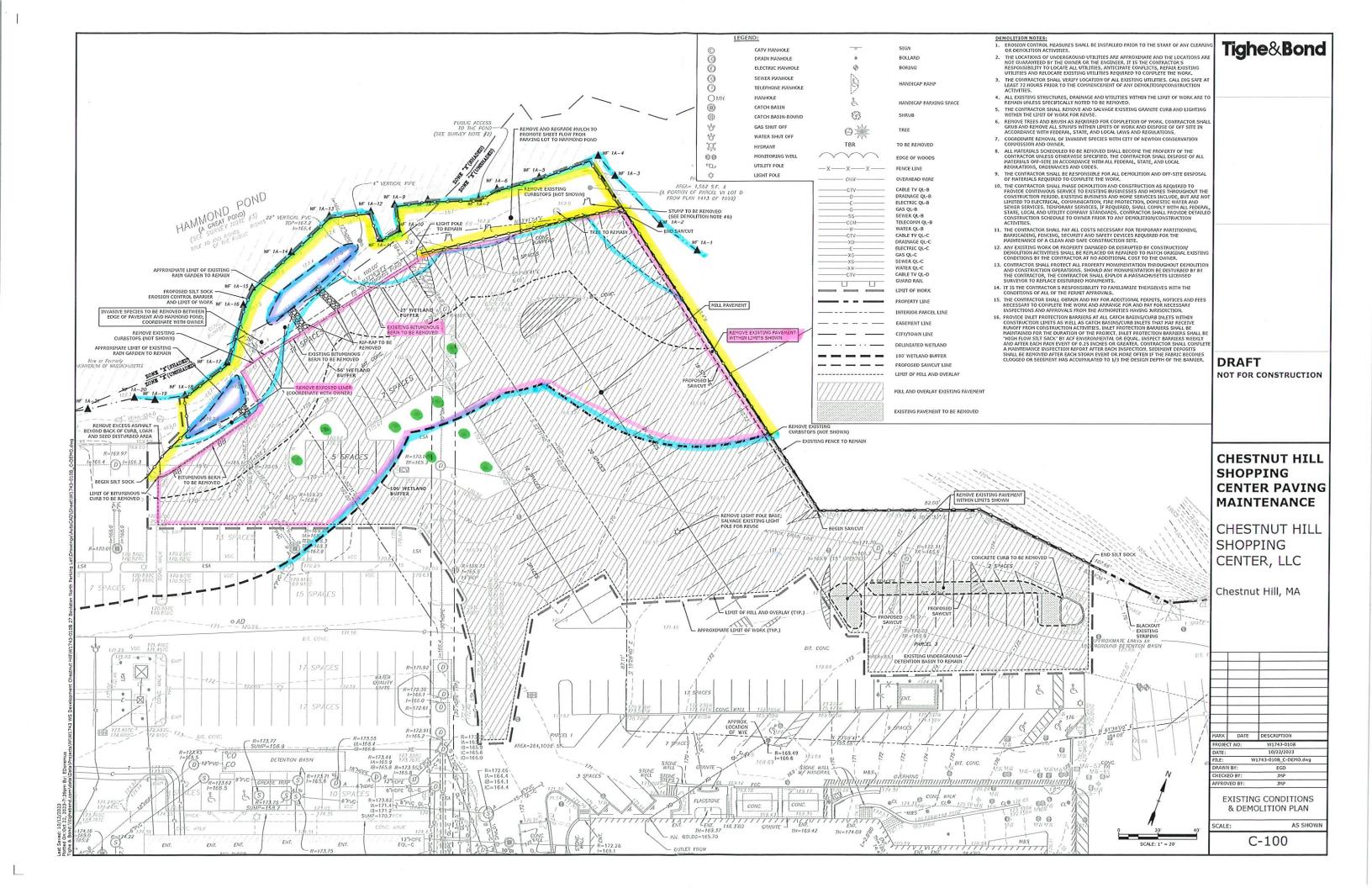
• The new Floodplain Ordinance requires communities to designate a Floodplain Administrator. Jennifer Steel will likely fill that role.

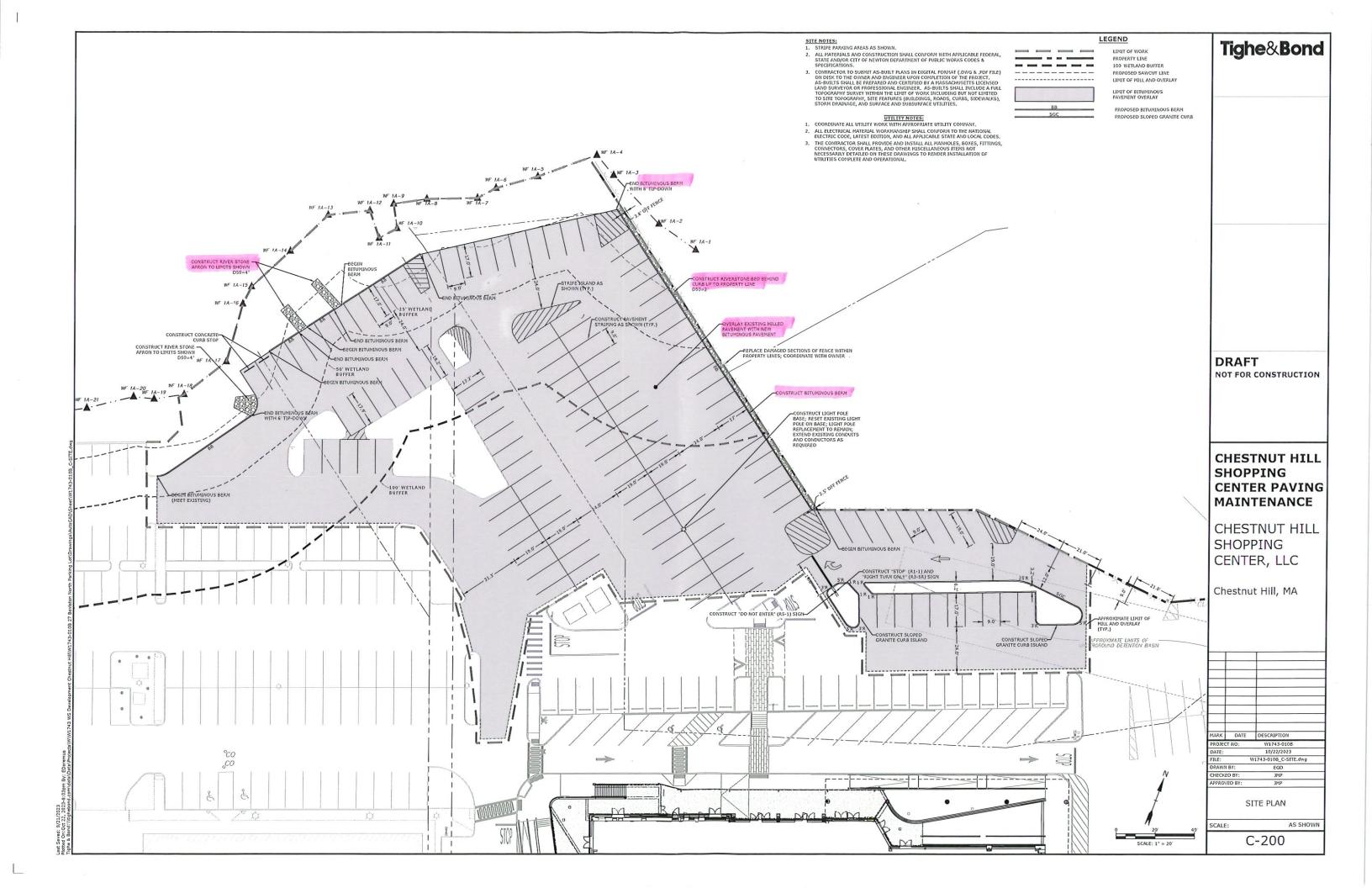
OTHER TOPICS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR 48 HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING

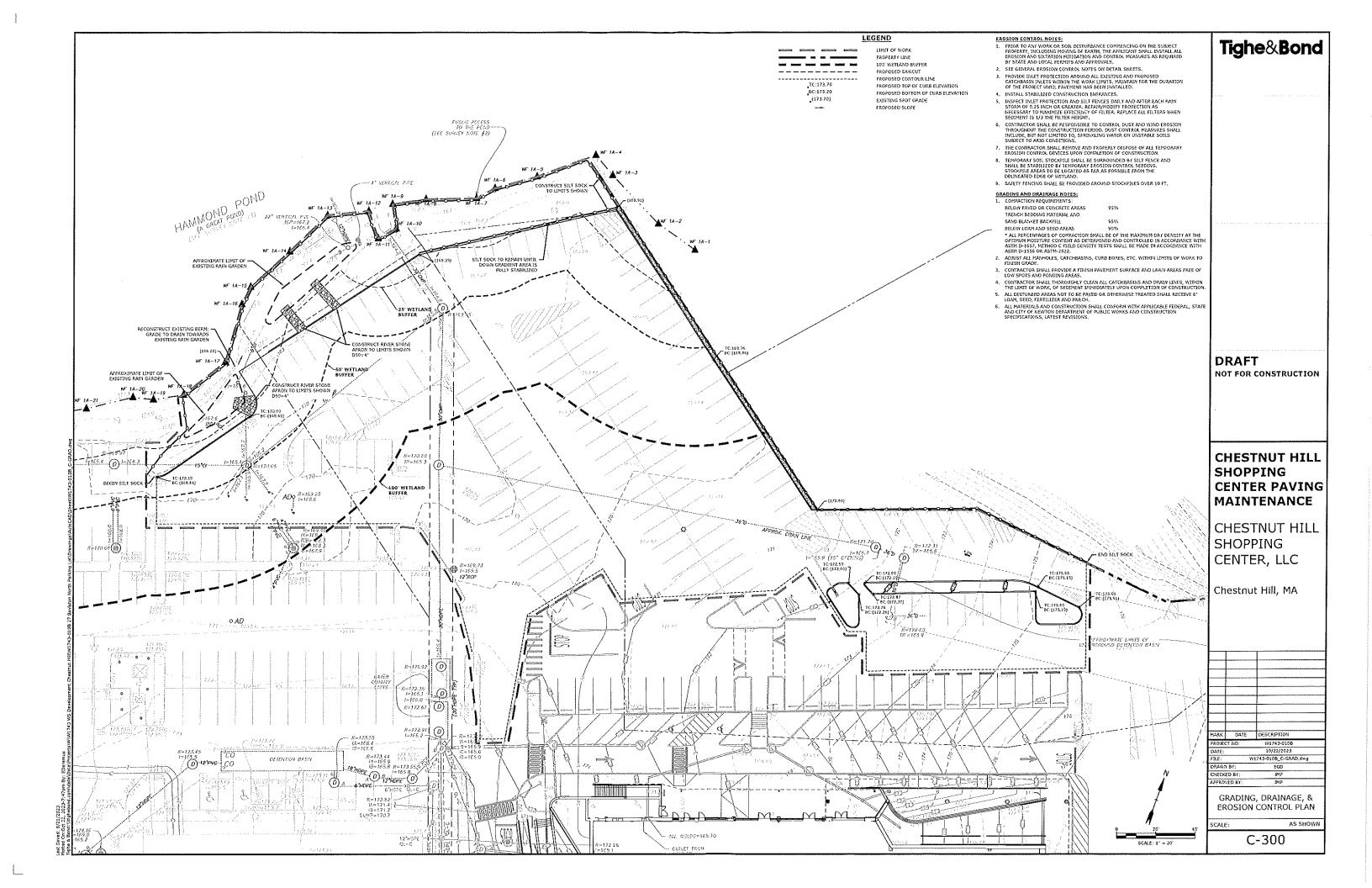
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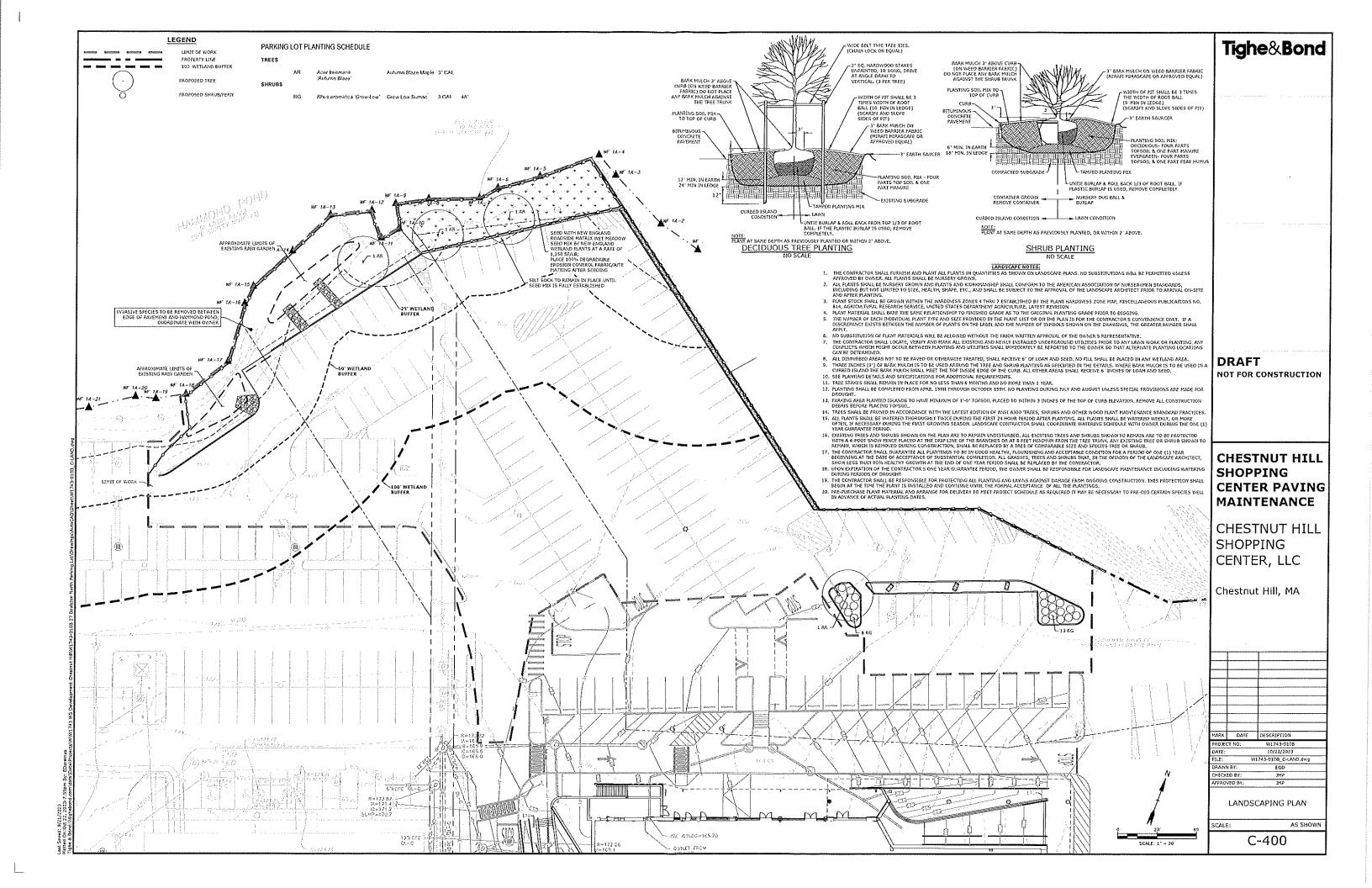
27 Boylston St

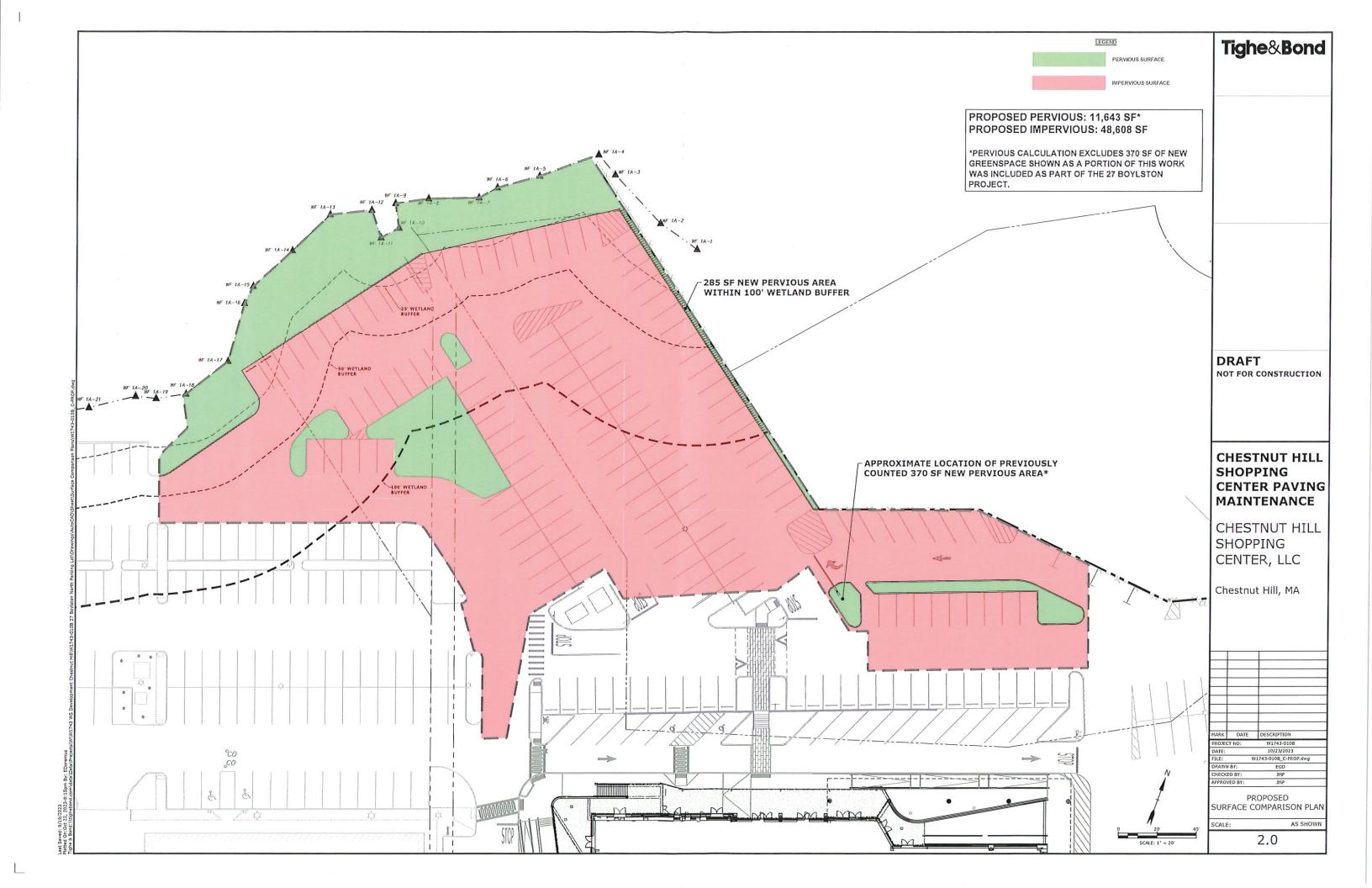




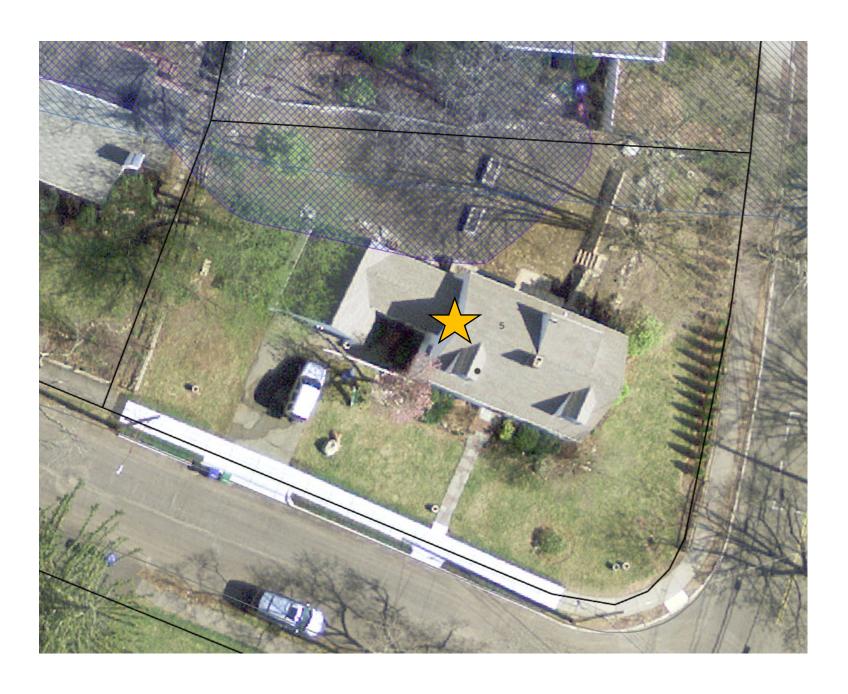


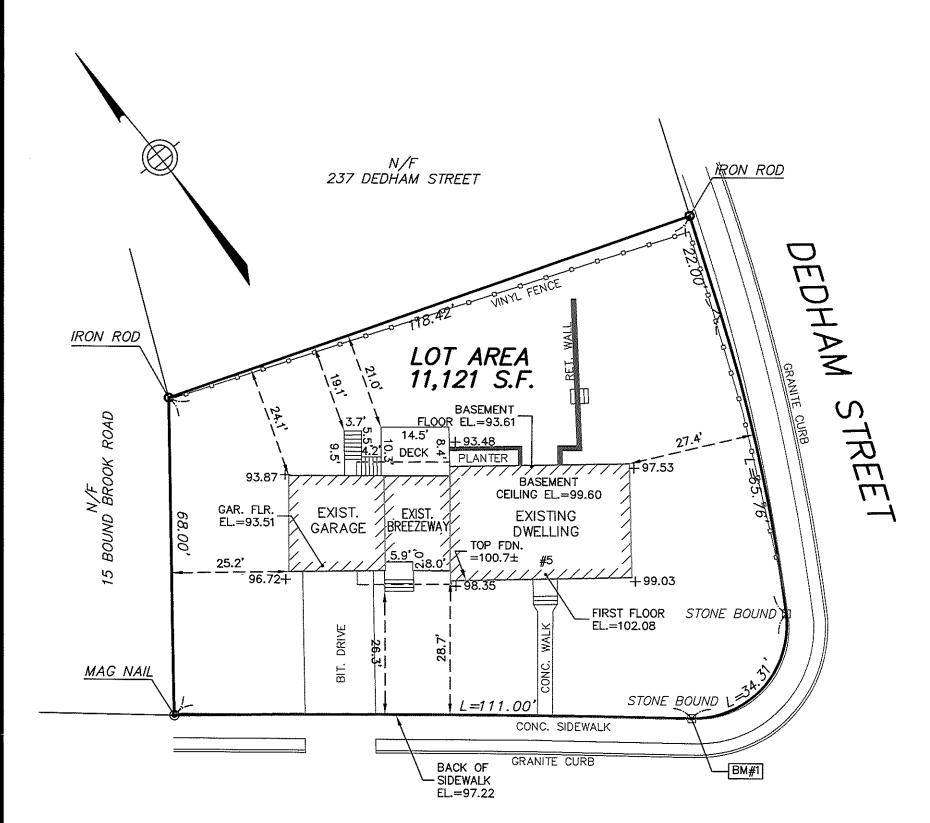






5 Bound Brook Rd





BOUND BROOK ROAD

PLAN GRAPHIC SCALE 10 0 10 20 40 1" = 20'

AVERAGE GRADE PLANE

SEG 1=(93.87+96.72)/2 x 20.6'=1,963 SEG 2=(93.87+93.48+97.53)/3 x 73.07'=6,939 SEG 3=(97.53+99.03)/2 x 24.41'=2,399 SEG 4=99.03+98.35+96.72)/3 x 74.43'=7,296 AVERAGE GRADE=(1,963+6,939+2,399+7,296)/192.51 AVERAGE GRADE=96.60

SCOTT M.
CERRATO
No. 50049

AND SURVEYOR

AN

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN IS BASED ON AN ACTUAL INSTRUMENT SURVEY MADE ON THE GROUND IN NOVEMBER 2015 AND THE STRUCTURE DEPICTED HEREON IS LOCATED AS SHOWN.

1 I-16-15 DATE Scott M. Cerrato
SIGNATURE

ZONING SETBACKS: SR2 (OLD LOT)

FRONT YARD 25 SIDE YARD 7.5' REAR YARD 15'

RECORD OWNER:

MARTIN SON & JEESOO LEE BOOK 1411 PAGE 89

PLAN REFERENCE:

LOT 305 ON L.C. PLAN 14628.40

BENC	HMARKS	(ASSUME	D DATUM)	
NO.	DESCRIPTION		ELEVATION	
BM#1	CENTER S	TONE BOUND	100.00	

SCOTT M. CERRATO

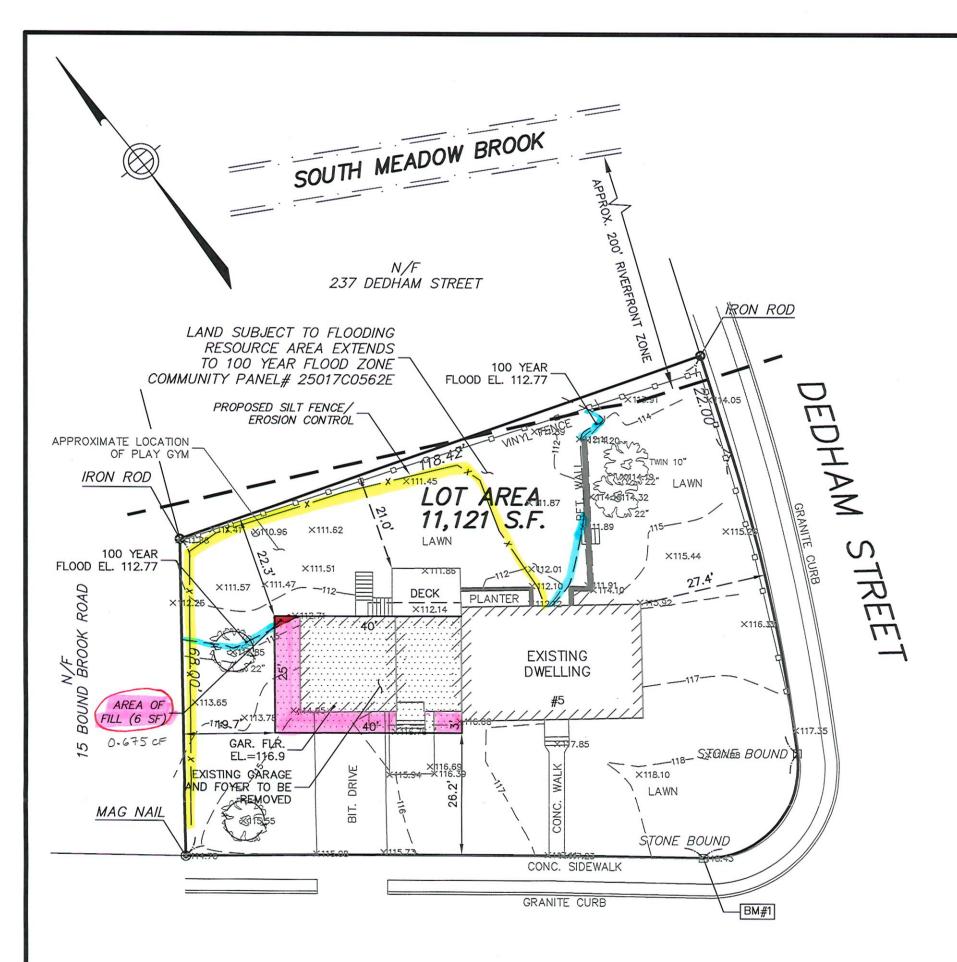
Professional Land Surveyor

24 Pleasant View Drive • Exeter, NH 03833 • 781-775-3724

AS-BUILT PLOT PLAN

5 BOUND BROOK ROAD NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS PARCEL ID: 83006 008

NOVEMBER 16, 2015



BOUND BROOK ROAD

ZONING SETBACKS: SR2 (OLD LOT)

FRONT YARD 25' SIDE YARD 7.5' REAR YARD 15'

RECORD OWNER:

MARTIN SON & JEESOO LEE BOOK 1411 PAGE 89

PLAN REFERENCE:

LOT 305 ON L.C. PLAN 14628.40

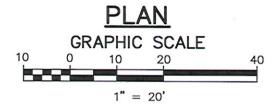


I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN IS BASED ON AN ACTUAL INSTRUMENT SURVEY MADE ON THE GROUND IN FEBRUARY 2023 AND THE STRUCTURE DEPICTED HEREON IS LOCATED AS SHOWN.

2-21-23

Scott M. Cerrato SIGNATURE

BENCHMARK (NAVD88)				
NO.	DESCRIPTION	ELEVATION		
BM#1	CENTER STONE BOUND	118.43		



SCOTT M. CERRATO

Professional Land Surveyor

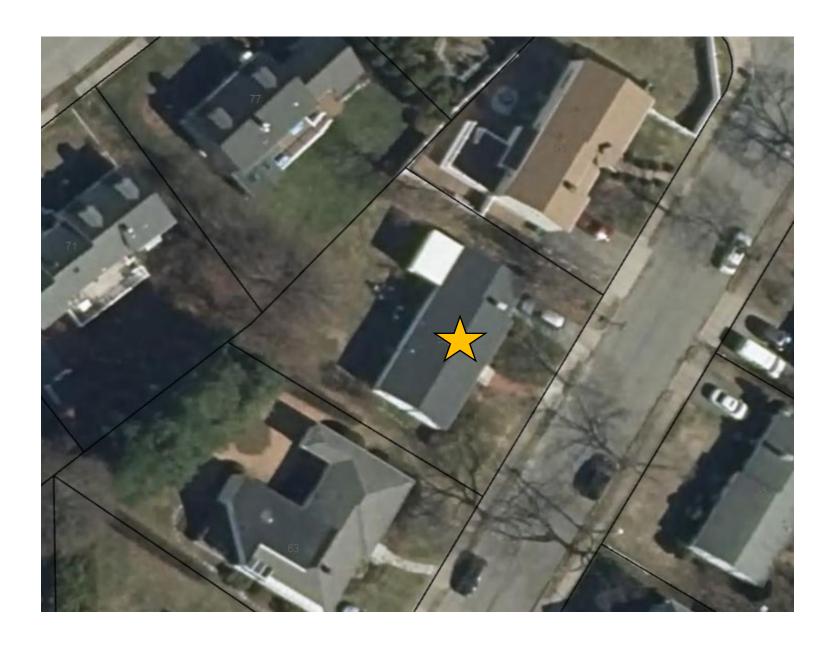
51 Wareham Street - Medford, Ma 02155 - 781-775-3724

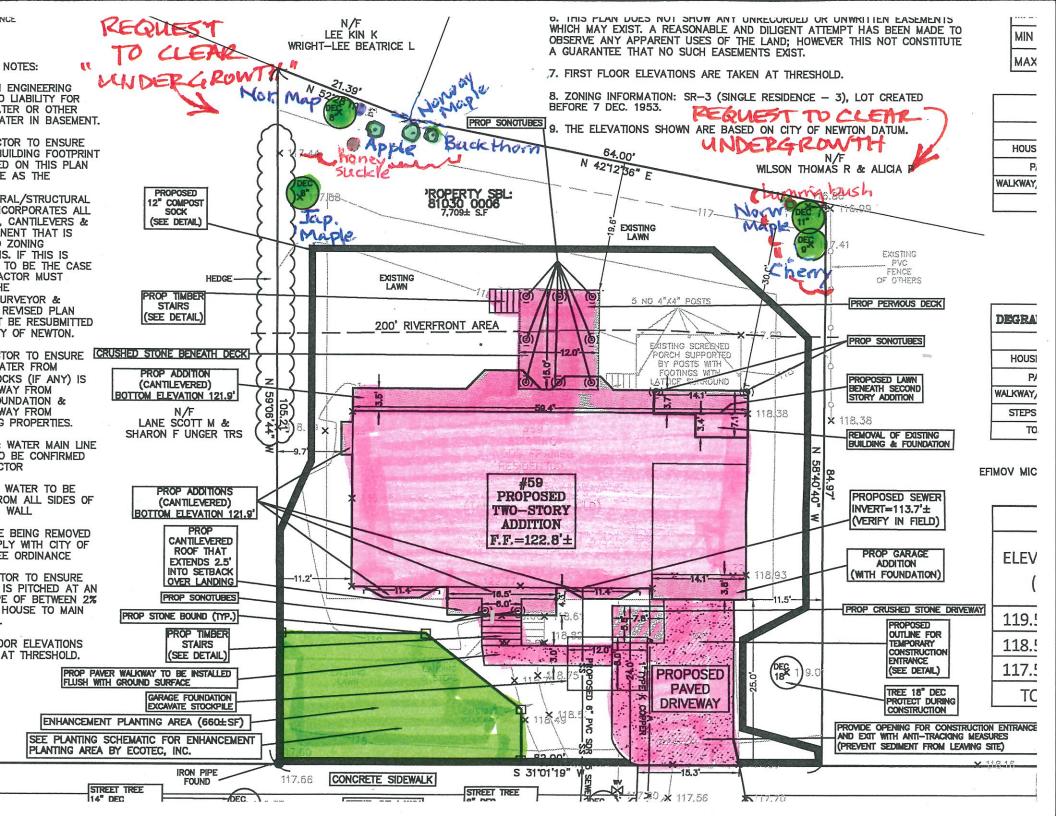
PLOT PLAN

5 BOUND BROOK ROAD NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS PARCEL ID: 83006 008

FEBRUARY 19, 2023

59 Selwyn Rd





CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Date: Thursday, October 19, 2023

Time: 7:01-7:53pm

Place: This meeting was held as a virtual meeting via Zoom.

With a quorum present, the meeting opened at 7:01 pm with Dan Green presiding as Chair.

Members Present: Dan Green (Chair), Susan Lunin (Vice-Chair), Kathy Cade, Leigh Gilligan, Ellen Katz, and

Sonya McKnight (Associate Member)

Members Absent: Jeff Zabel, Judy Hepburn,

Staff present: Jennifer Steel

Members of the Public: not recorded due to remote nature of the meeting

DECISIONS

A. WETLANDS DECISIONS

1. 53 Roosevelt Rd - Minor Plan Change Request - flooding mitigation - Negative Determination

- Owner/Applicant. Satya Keerthi Kota, Savithri B Kota
- Representatives. owners
- <u>Request</u>. Can desired site changes to address flooding be incorporated into the existing negative Determination as Minor Plan Changes
- Project Summary.
 - After abundant rainfall and drainage issues in recent months, the applicant has asked to construct a wall to keep stormwater from the street from running into their back yard, install a trench drain, and do minor grading in the front yard to remove tripping hazards in the front walkway.
- Documents in packets. Proposed project narrative
- Additional documents presented at meeting. Site photos
- Jurisdiction. FEMA Flood Zone, City Flood Zone
- Presentation (Staff) and Discussion (Satya Kota).
 - o A vertical loop geothermal heat pump was approved via RDA/DOA on 7/27/23.
 - The owners would like to construct a wall to keep stormwater from the street from running into their back yard, install a trench drain, and do minor grading in the front yard to remove tripping hazards in the front walkway. They wish to have guidance on what could be done under the existing DOA, what might require a new RDA, and what might require an NOI.
 - Staff reached out to DPW and heard that the City will be reconstructing Roosevelt Rd in the summer of 2024 and will, at that time, adjust the crown and pitch to better handle street runoff. In the meantime, DPW will increase maintenance to ensure optimal function of the stormdrain system.
 - The Commission feel that the perimeter drain installation could be approved as a minor plan change under the existing Determination as it would protect the approved geothermal well and that relaying the front walkway could be incorporated in the negative Determination as part of a Minor Plan Change, but that installation of a wall (i.e., work that would involve fill in flood zone and compensatory flood storage) would have to be reviewed, permitted, and conditioned under an Order of Conditions.
 - Katz suggested that installation of a rain garden might facilitate the provision of the required compensatory flood storage.
- <u>Vote</u> to ask staff to issue a memo summarizing the discussion and decision approving a
 perimeter drain and re-laid front walkway as Minor Plan Changes to the existing negative
 Determination. [Motion: Lunin. Second: Katz. Roll-call vote: Green (aye), Lunin (aye), Cade
 (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye). Vote: 5:0:0.] Staff will issue a memo with a sketch documenting
 the Commission's decision.
- <u>Consensus</u>: The installation of a wall designed to deflect street runoff would require the filing of a Notice of Intent and compensatory flood storage.



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Contact Information 1000 Comm. Ave. Newton, MA 02459

> T 617/796-1120 F 617/796-1142

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jsteel@newtonma.gov

2. 59 Selwyn Rd – Minor Plan Change Request – vegetation removal – DEP File # 239-895

- Owner/Applicant. Irina Elkin
- Representatives. Dan Burmenko (applicant)
- Request. Cut vegetation that was outside original limit of work but within Flood Zone
- Project Summary. Teardown/rebuild with an enhancement planting area
- <u>Documents in packets</u>. Approved plan
- Additional documents presented at meeting. Site photos
- Jurisdiction. FEMA Flood Zone
- · Presentation (Staff) and Discussion.
 - o The applicant was unable to attend this evening and asked that this agenda item be considered at the next meeting.
 - Staff will place the matter on the 11/9/2023 agenda.

3. 81 Albemarle Rd - EO Closure/COC Request - garage addition/noncompliant paving - DEP #239-762

- Owner/Applicant. Chirag Bhatt and Heena Pandya
- Request. Issue COC.
- Project Summary. Additions to a SFH and a wider driveway to match new 2-car garage.
- <u>Documents in packets</u>. Memo and illustrations clarifying requirements for compliance.
- Additional documents presented at meeting. Site photos
- Jurisdiction. Riverfront Area, Buffer Zone to Cheesecake Brook
- Presentation (Staff) and Discussion.
 - The OOC expired on 9/21/21 and so cannot be amended or extended.
 - A site visit on 11/15/22 found that the site was is substantial compliance with the approved plans <u>except</u> for the driveway which was installed larger than the layout on the approved plan.
 - o The owner opted to remove the asphalt and did so recently, rectifying the one outstanding issue.
 - o A site visit on 10/18/2023 confirmed removal and compliance with the originally approved plans.
- <u>Vote</u> to issue a complete Certificate of Compliance. [Motion: Gilligan. Second: Lunin. Roll-call vote: Green (aye), Lunin (aye), Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye). Vote: 5:0:0.]

4. 56 Greenwood Street - OOC Extension Request -- landscaping and utilities for a SFH -- DEP #239-0768

- Owner/Applicant. Gene Spivak (not present)
- Representatives. Lucas Machado, Curbs landscape design (not present)
- Request. Issue 2-year OOC Extension
- Project Summary.
 - The house was significantly renovated, a new front walkway was installed, the driveway was reconstructed, and utilities were installed.
 - o At time of COC request, hardscape and landscape differed from approved plans.
 - o The noncompliant hardscape was determined to be approvable; the noncompliant landscaping was not.
 - o The Commission approved a modified planting plan including a red maple street tree on 9/28/23.
 - \circ The modified planting plan is due to be planted the week of 10/16/23.
 - The applicant will need a 2-year permit extension for the new plants to prove themselves.
- Documents in packets. Planting plan
- Additional documents presented at meeting. None.
- Jurisdiction. Buffer Zone.
- · Presentation (Staff) and Discussion.
 - Staff presented the Project Summary.
- <u>Vote</u> to issue a 2-year extension. [Motion: Katz. Second: Cade. Roll-call vote: Green (aye), Lunin (aye), Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye). Vote: 5:0:0.]

5. 193 Lake Ave - OOC Extension Request - landscaping - DEP #239-881

- Applicant/Representative. Ry Hawkins, site contractor (not present)
- Request. Issue 1-year permit extension.
- Project Summary. Landscaping of front hillside.
- Documents in packets. Planting plan
- Additional documents presented at meeting. None

- Jurisdiction. Buffer Zone to Crystal Lake
- · Presentation (Staff) and Discussion.
 - o Staff reminded the Commission of the site and the photos of dense, healthy plantings on the steep slope.
 - Plants were installed in the summer of 2022 as per the plans and are thriving, so the site will be eligible for a COC in the summer of 2024.
 - The applicant has requested 1-year extension.
- <u>Vote</u> to issue a 1-year extension. [Motion: Gilligan. Second: Lunin. Roll-call vote: Green (aye), Lunin (aye), Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye). Vote: 5:0:0.]

6. 70 Kingswood - COC Request - single-family home deck, wall, and addition -- DEP #239-361

- Owner/Applicant. Larry Smith (not present)
- Representatives. Self
- Request. Issue COC.
- Project Summary. Single family home addition, deck, and small retaining wall.
- <u>Documents in packets</u>. Approved plan
- Additional documents presented at meeting. None
- Jurisdiction. Riverfront Area, Buffer Zone
- Presentation (Staff) and Discussion.
 - o Staff discovered the file for the 1998 permit. The Order of Conditions was recorded, but long since expired.
 - o The site was inspected during the recent permit application process associated with the proposed new addition.
 - The site is not in violation of the originally approved plans; only the wall and the deck were constructed; the proposed addition wasn't constructed.
 - o The owner applied to construct the addition under a new Notice of Intent and recently received an Order of Conditions.
 - The new "existing conditions" plan associated with the new Order of Conditions serves as an "as-built" plan for the old project.
- <u>Vote</u> to issue a Certificate of Compliance noting that work on the addition was never commenced. [Motion: Cade. Second: Gilligan. Roll-call vote: Green (aye), Lunin (aye), Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye). Vote: 5:0:0.]

7. 365-381 Elliot Street (the Mall at Echo Bridge) – COC Request – Vegetation Maintenance Plan – DEP #239-055 and #239-555

- Owner/Applicant. Mary Butler, Echo Bridge LLC (not present)
- Representatives. Same
- Request. Issue COC
- <u>Project Summary</u>. Clearing vegetation along the banks of the Charles River for safety, structural, and aesthetic reasons. Selective pruning and removal of invasives.
- <u>Documents in packets</u>. Approved plan
- Additional documents presented at meeting. Site photos
- Jurisdiction. Riverfront Area, Flood Zone, Buffer Zone
- Presentation (Staff) and Discussion.
 - o Staff clarified that the 239-055 permit number was issued in error and that 239-555 was the correct DEP file number.
 - o The property is likely to be sold and so the owners are hoping to clear the title with a COC.
 - o The OOC was issued in 2007; the normal paperwork for a COC request doesn't exist.
 - All work appears to have been done and maintained appropriately (Mature vegetation has been allowed to remain, but it has been pruned away from the building. Invasive species are not apparent). Staff found the site to be in substantial compliance.
- <u>Vote</u> to issue a complete Certificate of Compliance (clearly indicating that 239-055 and 239-555 were the same project and are now fully closed out. [Motion: Gilligan. Second: Lunin. Roll-call vote: Green (aye), Lunin (aye), Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye). Vote: 5:0:0.]

8. 400 Beacon St - COC Request - Mary Baker Eddy estate landscape improvements - DEP #239-843

- Owner/Applicant. Sandra Houston, Longyear Foundation
- Representatives. Bert Corey, DGT Associates
- Request. Issue COC.
- Project Summary.
 - Extensive restoration and redevelopment of the main house and historic landscape features
 - Only a small portion of the overall project activities were within the ConCom's jurisdiction (RFA).

- Activities within RFA include creation of a paved circular drive, installation of a stormwater management system for the
 circular drive area (a rain garden, stone swale, and level spreader), clearing of the old vegetable garden, and Japanese
 knotweed control.
- <u>Documents in packets</u>. Approved plan
- Additional documents presented at meeting. Site photos
- <u>Jurisdiction</u>. Riverfront Area, Buffer Zone, Flood Zone all at back of property
- · Presentation (Staff) and Discussion.
 - Staff's recent site visit found the site to be in good shape and ready for removal of the erosion controls.
 - o Staff praised the applicant team for their extensive invasive control and debris removal efforts.
 - Staff noted that recently installed sedge plants had been uprooted by animals, but that the applicant team had reinstalled them and submitted photo-documentation.
 - o The Applicant removed the erosion controls and submitted photo-documentation.
- <u>Vote</u> to issue a complete Certificate of Compliance. [Motion: Cade. Second: Gilligan. Roll-call vote: Green (aye), Lunin (aye), Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye). Vote: 5:0:0.]

B. CONSERVATION AREA DECISIONS – none at this time

C. ADMNISTRATIVE DECISIONS - none at this time

9. Minutes to be approved

- Documents in packets. Draft 9/28/2023 minutes
- <u>Vote</u> to approve the 9/28/2023 minutes reviewed by Leigh Gilligan. [Motion: Katz. Second: Lunin. Roll-call vote: Green (aye), Lunin (aye), Cade (abstain), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye). Vote: 4:0:1.]
- <u>Volunteer</u>. Susan Lunin volunteered to review the 10/19/2023 minutes.

D. ISSUES AROUND TOWN DECISIONS – none at this time

UPDATES / DISCUSSION

E. WETLANDS

- <u>Large projects soon to be before the Commission</u>. 528 Boylston St. (provides an opportunity for wetland improvements); Countryside School (provides an opportunity for wetland improvements); and Albemarle Fields.
- <u>Watertown Dam</u>. Staff noted that the dam is entirely within Watertown, so any permitting associated with its possible removal would be centered in Watertown, but that up- and down-stream impacts might need to be permitted by Newton Conservation Commission.

F. CONSERVATION AREAS

- Essex Horticulture is wrapping up the season with "last visits". All parcels are in good shape going into the winter.
- Volunteer Land Steward Walk on 10/26/2023. Commissioners will be invited to join when the invitation goes out tomorrow.

G. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

• <u>City Email Addresses</u>. Commissioners asked staff to request City email accounts for every Commissioner so their personal email addresses would not be used by the public. Staff will do so right away.

H. ISSUES AROUND TOWN – none at this time

OTHER TOPICS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR 48 HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING

10.6 Vaughn Ave. – COC Re-Sign – tear-down/rebuild of single family home – DEP #239-865

- Owner/Applicant. Jon Roiter
- Representatives. none
- Request. Issue re-signed COC.
- · Presentation (Staff) and Discussion.
 - o The original "wet signature" copy was lost by the original recipient.
- <u>Vote</u> to issue a re-signed complete Certificate of Compliance. [Motion: Katz. Second: Gilligan. Roll-call vote: Green (aye), Lunin (aye), Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye). Vote: 5:0:0.]

11.43 Grayson Lane - COC - Addition to a SFH -- DEP #239-593

- Owner/Applicant. Marta Geletkanycz
- · Representatives. none
- Request. Issue COC.

· Presentation (Staff) and Discussion.

- o This old permit needed to be closed out.
- The applicant had recently submitted a plan to install extensive perimeter plantings and gravel in the back yard. The
 gravel installation was not possible, and the plantings that were installed were not as extensive as originally hoped.
- The only special condition in the Order of Conditions was that the applicant remove lawn and install native plants in an
 area as large as the approved work associated with the addition. The applicant installed ferns in the side yard and native
 shrubs along the perimeter of the back yard. Taken together those areas exceed the "area of work" and so comply with
 the Order of conditions.
- <u>Vote</u> to issue a complete Certificate of Compliance. [Motion: Katz. Second: Gilligan. Roll-call vote: Green (aye), Lunin (aye), Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye). Vote: 5:0:0.]

ADJOURN at 7:53. [Motion: Cade. Second: Gilligan. Roll-call vote: Green (aye), Lunin (aye), Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye). Vote: 5:0:0.]

310 CMR 10.57 Flood Zone regs

10.57: continued

- (4) General Performance Standards.
 - (a) Bordering Land Subject to Flooding.
 - 1. Compensatory storage shall be provided for all flood storage volume that will be lost as the result of a proposed project within Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, when in the judgment of the issuing authority said loss will cause an increase or will contribute incrementally to an increase in the horizontal extent and level of flood waters during peak flows.
 - Compensatory storage shall mean a volume not previously used for flood storage and shall be incrementally equal to the theoretical volume of flood water at each elevation, up to and including the 100-year flood elevation, which would be displaced by the proposed project. Such compensatory volume shall have an unrestricted hydraulic connection to the same waterway or water body. Further, with respect to waterways, such compensatory volume shall be provided within the same reach of the river, stream or creek.
 - 2. Work within Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, including that work required to provide the above-specified compensatory storage, shall not restrict flows so as to cause an increase in flood stage or velocity.
 - 3. Work in those portions of bordering land subject to flooding found to be significant to the protection of wildlife habitat shall not impair its capacity to provide important wildlife habitat functions. Except for work which would adversely affect vernal pool habitat, a project or projects on a single lot, for which Notice(s) of Intent is filed on or after November 1, 1987, that (cumulatively) alter(s) up to 10% or 5,000 square feet (whichever is less) of land in this resource area found to be significant to the protection of wildlife habitat, shall not be deemed to impair its capacity to provide important wildlife habitat functions. Additional alterations beyond the above threshold, or altering vernal pool habitat, may be permitted if they will have no adverse effects on wildlife habitat, as determined by procedures contained in 310 CMR 10.60.

Construction in Flood Zone Newton Conservation Commission

Guidelines under the State Wetlands Protection Regulations (310 CMR 10.00)

Approved 10/8/20

<u>Purpose</u>. It is the interest of the Newton Conservation Commission to ensure that flood zone areas continue to provide flood storage and wildlife habitat value interests as specified in the state wetland regulations, most specifically:

310 CMR 10.57(1)(a)2. Bordering Land Subject to Flooding provides a temporary <u>storage area</u> for flood water which has overtopped the bank of the main channel of a creek, river or stream or the basin of a pond or lake.

310 CMR 10.57(1)(a)3. Certain portions of Bordering Land Subject to Flooding are also likely to be significant to the protection of wildlife habitat.

<u>Guidelines</u>. As per the regulations, "unrestricted hydraulic connection" mut be provided in areas of compensatory flood storage,

310 CMR 10.57(4)(a)1. Such compensatory volume shall have an <u>unrestricted hydraulic connection</u> to the same waterway or water body.

310 CMR 10.57(4)(a)2. Work within Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, including that work required to provide the above-specified compensatory storage, shall not restrict flows so as to cause an increase in flood stage or velocity.

Therefore:

- 1. Areas developed as compensatory flood storage must be fully open to the flow of water from any and all sides of the contiguous flood plain.
 - a. <u>Structures must be constructed on pilings</u>. "To act as an unrestricted hydraulic connection in Bordering Lands Subject to Flooding, there would have to be an open pile foundation with the lowest floor or lowest horizontal structural member elevated at or above the 100-year flood elevation, so river flow during a flood can flow unimpeded. An open-pile foundation would only require compensatory flood storage for the volume of the piles."
 - b. Apertures in otherwise solid foundations are not permitted. "Apertures, orifices, or penetrations of any size in a solid foundation act as hydraulic restrictions, when constructed in Bordering Lands Subject to Flooding." "The apertures or orifices in a solid foundation act as hydraulic restrictions when constructed in Bordering Lands Subject to Flooding, so do not meet the 310 CMR 10.57 criteria to provide compensatory flood storage." "The volume enclosed by the solid foundation cannot be credited to serve as compensatory flood storage, regardless of the numbers and size of apertures and orifices." [Note: Quoted text is from email communication from Tom Maguire, Wetland Regional Coordinator, MassDEP Wetlands Program, Boston MA, July 2020]
 - c. Skirting, wire mesh, lattice, or other similar covering over or around pilings or apertures within the flood zone/elevation may be permitted only if those materials are proven to not impede or restrict the flow of flood waters. Any covering that is proposed within the flood zone/elevation must have an even distribution of at least 50% open air and must not be of a design that is likely to trap debris. All proposals for covering must be submitted to the Conservation Commission for review and approval; submissions must prove that the proposed material meets the requirement of preserving unrestricted hydraulic connection. Some options that may be considered by the Commission for approval include the following:
 - Shrubs planted at grade
 - Wire cables spaced at least 1" apart
 - Wire mesh with large holes, at 1"x4" openings
 - Wooden lattice with large holes, at ~2" on a side
 - Narrow, vertical lath with large gaps (at least 1") between the slats and total coverage of no more than 50%

2. Fences must not restrict hydraulic connection or impede wildlife passage.

- Installing a fence in BLSF is an alteration, so requires the filing of a NOI.
- The BLSF performance standards for storm damage prevention and flood control must be demonstrated to be met.
 - For the wildlife habitat interest, the bottom of the fence would need to be elevated to provide for wildlife passage, similar to fences constructed in the Riverfront Area.
 - For the storm damage prevention and flood control interests, the fence would have to comply with 310 CMR 10.57(4)(a)2., work "shall not restrict flows so as to cause an increase in flood stage or velocity." The burden is on the Applicant to make this demonstration.

Any and all questions about these guidelines should be posed to the Newton Conservation Office:

- jsteel@newtonma.gov,
- 617-796-1134, or
- 1000 Commonwealth Ave., Newton, MA 02459

Newton Conservation Commission

Flood Zone Compensatory Storage Policy

Approved: 1-30-20

- I. PREAMBLE: The state Wetlands Protection Regulations, 310 CMR 10.57, state that floodplains provide flood control and storm damage prevention; certain portions of Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF) are also likely to be significant to the protection of wildlife habitat. This guidance was created in recognition of the great ecological and hydrological value of BLSF, the realities of grading and construction projects, and the pressing concern of increased rainfall and flooding events due to climate change.
- II. **GOAL of this POLICY**: To support the interest of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act of fully preserving flood storage capacity within Newton's bordering lands subject to flooding (BLSF) by requiring applicants to incorporate a small net gain of flood storage capacity into proposed plans for development within BLSF.
- III. **REASON for this POLICY**: The Newton Conservation Commission recognizes the importance of BLSF (as defined in the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, G.L. c. 131, § 40 and associated regulations 310 CMR 10.00 et seq.) in providing flood control and storm damage prevention and, possibly, significant wildlife habitat. The Newton Conservation Commission further recognizes that:
 - Fill within BLSF reduces overall flood storage capacity,
 - The precision of grades shown on proposed site plans and as-built plans is often insufficient to determine exact changes in flood storage capacity, and
 - Final landscaping with loam, sod, and mulch can result in unanticipated and unaccounted for increases in fill on a site.
- IV. **REQUIREMENT of this POLICY**: To protect Newton's residents from the adverse impacts of incremental fill in BLSF, it is the policy of the Newton Conservation Commission to ensure that any project which results in an increase in fill greater than 2 cubic yards, must supply an additional 10% of compensatory flood storage capacity (i.e., 110% compensation for fill brought into the floodplain elevation). This additional flood storage capacity shall be built into the project application filed with the Commission when proposing work within BLSF. This will help ensure that overall BLSF flood storage capacity will be maintained throughout Newton.
- V. **EXEMPTIONS**: If an applicant seeks an exemption from the requirements of this policy or any provision hereof, the burden shall be upon the applicant to prove that the proposed project:
 - Complies with the Wetlands Protection Act, and
 - Is the only reasonable alternative to achieve the stated project purpose, or
 - Will further a significant public interest, or
 - Is the only available alternative that does not constitute an unconstitutional taking of private property without just compensation.

If the Commission votes to allow an exemption to this policy, it may require the applicant to meet certain conditions that the Commission determines will result in improved protection of the wetland resource area.