

# CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Date: October 8, 2020

Time: 7:01pm – 10:17pm

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82576773625>

**With a quorum present**, the meeting opened at 7:01 Susan Lunin presiding as Chair, and Dan Green taking over later in the proceedings.

**Members Present:** Susan Lunin, Leigh Gilligan, Kathy Cade, Jeff Zabel, Judy Hepburn, Ellen Katz

**Staff Present:** Jennifer Steel and Claire Rundelli

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

## DECISIONS

### I. WETLANDS DECISIONS

#### 1. 53 Wendell Rd – Minor Plan Change – DEP File #239-852

- Owner/Applicant: Ron and Karin Zalkind Representative: Cristina Campa, Cristina Campa Landscape Architecture Inc.
- Request: Approve minor plan change.
- Documents Presented: Colored plans, site photos
- Jurisdiction: BLSF, City Flood Zone
- Requested Plan Changes
  - Reduce the number of shrubs planted within jurisdiction from 55 shrubs to 38 shrubs.
  - Reduce overall groundcover planting area to 950 s.f., substitute w/ 925 s.f. of fescue mix.
  - Reduce lawn area by 17 s.f.
  - Leave all trees in originally approved positions, except the western most (left most on plan sheet provided in packet) which will be moved back by 3'.
- Presentation (Cristina Campa) and Discussion:
  - Campa ran through the desired (more limited) plan changes.
    - Only one birch will move and will only move 3 feet.
    - The number of shrubs has been increased.
    - Shrubs will be of good size; all will be at least #3 pots, some will be #5 and #7.
    - A maple leaf viburnum was added to increase diversity. Katz noted that a leaf beetle is a problem.
  - Campa noted that groundcover will be 2" plugs, spaced 12" apart and that the fescue and groundcover areas will be covered with jute for weed and erosion control. Katz noted that Allegheny spurge is browsed by rabbits.
  - Rundelli noted that all non-natives are outside ConCom jurisdiction.
  - The revised plan change request better addresses staff and Commission concerns and seems more appropriate as a minor plan change request. Staff could issue a memo.
- Vote: to approve the modified **and annotated** plan sheet as a minor plan change to OOC #239-852. [Motion: Green; Second: Gilligan; Roll-call vote: Gilligan (aye), Lunin (aye); Green (aye), Zabel (aye), Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Katz (aye). Vote 7:0:0]

#### 2. 24 Village Road – NOI – construction of new detached garage and new driveway – DEP File #239-866

- Owner/Applicant: Hisham Salem Representative: Anthony Stella, Site Engineering Consultants, Inc.
- Request: Issue OOC.
- Documents Presented: Colored plans, site photos, draft OOC
- Jurisdiction: Riverfront Area
- Project Summary
  - Construction of a 20'x24.5' attached, garage. Existing garage will be converted to storage.
  - Pouring of a new asphalt driveway that begins at the street at 12' wide and meets the garage at 20' wide. The existing driveway will be reduced to 10' wide down its entire length.
  - Installation of underground infiltration chambers and trench drain to collect runoff from driveway and new roof.



**Mayor**

Ruthanne Fuller

**Director**

**Planning & Development**  
Barney Heath

**Chief**

**Environmental Planner**  
Jennifer Steel

**Assistant**

**Environmental Planner**  
Claire Rundelli

**Conservation Commission Members**

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

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- Installation of 3 mitigation planting areas planted with a total of roughly 25 shrubs, plus the relocation of some existing shrubs that will be at risk due to the new garage location. Total mitigation area is 1031 s.f.
- The project will result in roughly 800 s.f. new impervious area on the site, all within the outer riparian zone.
- Presentation (Tony Stella civil engineer) and Discussion:
  - Stella walked through the recently revised plans noting the changes.
    - Due to on-going access restrictions at the Registry, the applicant's attorney has been unable to determine details of the prohibitions placed on the "25' setback" were never resolved so the owners opted to stay out of it, entirely. Garage will now be attached to the house and out of the setback.
    - Garage was to have been 24'x26', it is now 20'x24', is now 175' from river, and now won't require any tree cutting.
    - Driveway is also narrower (only 20' wide).
    - There is now 1031 s.f. of mitigation planting beds.
  - Steel asked about the damage to roots of the Norway maple due to driveway excavation. Stella noted excavation would be roughly 15" deep (12" base and 3" of asphalt), but would impact a small portion of the maple's roots.
  - Staff can mail the Order to Stella for recording.
- Vote to close the hearing and issue and Order of Conditions with the following special conditions. [Motion: Zabel; Second: Katz; Roll-call vote: Gilligan (aye), Lunin (aye); Green (aye), Zabel (aye), Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Katz (aye). Vote 7:0:0]
  - A concrete washout plan designed to keep all wash water on the site must be presented to the Conservation Commission for review and approval.
  - Landscape plantings of the three mitigation areas shown on the plan must:
    - Be installed in compliance with the approved plans; desired changes must be pre-approved by the Conservation office
    - Have a survival rate(after 2 growing seasons) of 75% of aerial coverage of each of the 3 mitigation beds.
  - If, within 2 years of the start of construction, the Norway maple beside the new driveway dies or has been demonstrably harmed by construction activities, it shall be replaced with 2 native canopy saplings (of roughly 2 caliper inches).
  - The stormwater infiltration system must be installed as per the approved plans.
  - The City Engineer must inspect the infiltration system. The applicant must submit proof of inspection to the Cons. Office.

**3. 33 Staniford Street – NOI – observation deck – DEP File #239-876**

- Owner/Applicant: Zaid Ashai Representative: Eric Las, Beals and Thomas, Inc.
- Request: Issue OOC.
- Documents Presented: Colored plans, site photos, draft OOC
- Jurisdiction: Buffer Zone
- Project Summary
  - Note: The site was part of an enforcement action years ago that obligated the previous owner to stabilize the slope and plant natives at the base of the slope. The slope is stable, but with "junky" species, and the base of the slope that was planted with natives is being overtaken by Japanese knotweed. The current owners would like to improve and enjoy the site.
  - Construct a 40' x 15' (600 s.f.) observation deck off of existing lawn over the vegetated slope at the rear of the lot. Proposed deck to be supported by sonotubes. The deck, at its closest, will be 74' from the BVW.
  - Remove remaining silt fence and other litter from previous owners.
  - Remove and retard existing Japanese knotweed stands through mechanical measures (black tarps).
  - Install native sapling, shrubs, and conservation seed mix within a 20' wide Buffer Zone enhancement area at the rear edge of the property.
- Presentation (Andrew Gorman, Beals and Thomas) and Discussion:
  - Revised plans were submitted for the hearing that addressed all of the staff comments and concerns.
  - Since the deck will project out over the northern scrub-vegetated slope (i.e., beyond the edge of lawn), it does not qualify for the "deck exemption."
  - They will use staked compost sock for erosion control during construction, and stone under the deck for long-term erosion control.

- The project includes a buffer zone enhancement effort in the “back/bottom” 20 feet of the lot. They will remove the old chain link fence, historic debris, and extensive Japanese knotweed (by pulling/tarping/foiar herbiciding). They will plant native sapling, shrubs, and a conservation seed mix.
- Katz noted that injection may be more targeted and effective than foliar spray for knotweed control.
- Steel suggested an aggressive, sustained removal effort then a planting effort. She suggested a 5-year OOC would be appropriate. The applicant’s representative agreed and noted that they would replace any plants that die.
- Katz noted that if the owners wanted to put a roof over the deck, it would need to be approved by Con Com.
- Vote to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions with the following special conditions. [Motion: Lunin; Second: Gilligan; Roll-call vote: Gilligan (aye), Lunin (aye); Green (aye), Zabel (aye), Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Katz (aye). Vote 7:0:0]
  - Complete vegetated stabilization around the deck must be achieved and maintained as shown on the approved plans
  - Invasive removal efforts must be initiated before or concurrent with the start of construction in order to ensure they are completed, planting is initiated, and survival is ensured during the lifespan of this permit. Any desired changes to the invasive species treatment must be reviewed and approved by the Conservation Office prior to initiation.
  - Invasive removal efforts shall be as identified on Plan Sheet 4, but may be augmented at the discretion of the licensed professional to include cut and drip and/or stem injection.
  - No existing trees shall be disturbed with herbicides, cutting, or trampling.
  - Landscape plantings within Commission jurisdiction must:
    - Be installed in compliance with the approved plans (desired changes must be approved by the Conservation office in advance).
    - Have a survival rate of 100% of total number of trees (after 2 growing seasons).
    - Have a survival rate of 75% of total number of shrubs (after 2 growing seasons).
  - Tarps shall be removed entirely prior to the installation of the seed mix.
  - The Conservation Seed mix must provide 75% coverage after one growing season.
  - The deck, as shown on the approved plans, shall not be modified (extended, covered, roofed, or walled) without permission of the Conservation Commission.

**4. 116 Upland Ave – resolve the question of unpermitted cladding – DEP File #239-824**

- Owner: Ilya Zvenigorodskiy
- Request: Determine compliance re enclosing area under the house with “lath”.
- Documents Presented: Site photos
- Jurisdiction: Flood zone
- Staff Notes: The Commission had determined that:
  - The regs require “unrestricted hydraulic connection” for all areas serving as flood storage.
  - The question for the Commission is: what must the owner do to bring the site into compliance.
  - Commission has noted that:
    - It would like to allow the owner (and others in similar situations) to provide safety
    - It is their preference to have no skirting
    - It is the applicant’s duty to prove that any proposed skirting will not restrict the hydraulic connection
  - Zvenigorodskiy’s lath violates the OOC by enclosing the crawl space.
  - The owner should have appealed the OOC if the condition was not acceptable OR
  - The owner should have sought approval of a plan change prior to installing skirting
  - The Commission should require of this owner whatever it would allow future applicants under a new guidance or policy for such circumstances that will ensure that water can pass freely from all directions in times of flooding (even when debris is present).
- Discussion of a Flood Zone Construction Guidance (the Conservation Commission)
  - Green noted that prior to discussing 116 Upland Ave, the Commission should first discuss and decide upon the draft guidelines that have been in development for several weeks. The goal is to provide what the Commission feels is readily approvable; other designs could be proven by an applicant to be acceptable.
  - Katz noted that when she proposed wire cables as a possible barrier, she did not envision them being 1” apart, as implied in the draft guidelines. Steel noted that she had put in the 1” figure to be consistent, but agreed that wires could and likely would be more than 1” apart.

- Hepburn noted that apertures of wire mesh should be required to be at least 2” on a side and at least 1”x4”
- Green noted that the guidance could be modified if/as needed based on experience.
- Katz suggested the addition of Tom Maguire’s title/credentials and adding note: “If you are unsure, ask”.
- Zvenigorodskiy noted his appreciation of the clearer definition, and noted that it would have been good to have such a guidance in place before he installed his lath.
- Vote to adopt guidelines as modified. [Motion: Zabel; Second: Lunin; Roll-call vote: Gilligan (aye), Lunin (aye); Green (aye), Zabel (aye), Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Katz (aye). Vote 7:0:0]
- Presentation (Ilya Zvenigorodskiy) and Discussion of 116 Upland Ave
  - Zvenigorodskiy noted that he had: created extra compensatory storage; installed 60 arbor vitae, not a solid fence; installed a pump to help neighbors; and installed lath that was in keeping with other neighbors’ construction in flood zone. He shared photos of the solid panel fence along his rear lot line and the vertical lath on his neighbor’s deck. He noted that his neighbor’s fence is not compliant with the guidance, his neighbor’s vertical lattice is not compliant with the guidance, and the foundation at 170 Upland has vents
  - Rundelli pointed out that 170 Upland did not have to provide extra compensatory storage.
  - Gilligan and Green noted that Zvenigorodskiy’s Order of Conditions barred enclosure, and Green noted that Zvenigorodskiy’s enclosure doesn’t allow the free flow of water.
  - Zvenigorodskiy noted that there weren’t guidelines at the time he got his permit and that he tried to follow all the conditions and didn’t intend to do anything wrong. He feels that water can enter from all sides.
  - Green noted that the OOC was clear and that Zvenigorodskiy should have asked prior to installing the lath. Unfortunately, one has to provide the free flow of flood waters, so all the other good things he did don’t “count” in this matter. Green apologized for the hassle but stated that Zvenigorodskiy would have to come up with a plan that meets his aesthetics and the Commission’s guidelines. He could, for example, remove every other board.
  - Katz suggested using wire mesh behind whatever exterior Zvenigorodskiy chose to keep small creatures out.
  - Katz noted that South Meadow Brook is a huge watershed and floods are significant
  - Cade suggested that we close the discussion, noting that Zvenigorodskiy should develop a proposal. The Commission agreed and asked that he do so by the end of the year. His permit (239-824) is due to expire in December 2021.
- Consensus: Ensure that Zvenigorodskiy submits a proposal for compliance before December 31, 2020.

**5. Bullough’s Pond Skating Shed – Violation of Administrative Approval – Unpermitted Retaining Wall**

- Owner: Newton Parks, Recreation, and Culture (PRC) Private Partner: Bullough’s Pond Association (BPA)
- Issue: Unpermitted retaining wall constructed in buffer zone on PRC land by a private organization.
- Documents Presented: Site photos, administratively approved sketch plan
- Jurisdiction: Buffer zone
- Presentation (Jennifer Steel) and Discussion (PRC’s Open Space Coordinator, Luis Perez Demorizi):
  - Staff issued administrative approval to the City (Public Buildings, DPW and PRC) to remove the skating shed/hut and power pole. There was no significant alteration to the surrounding area. The concrete slab and the wooden deck remained. Native shrub plantings enhanced the nearby slope.
  - Then, on 9/13/19 staff issued administrative approval for the removal of the failing deck based on sketch plans received from (and site visits with) Laura Studen. The approved plans were for a small “bead” of soil and native plants to be installed along the front edge of the slab to eliminate the falling hazard.
  - On 9/13/19, Laura Studen wrote to Jennifer Steel: “Thank you for your feedback and for Luis help on this project. Can I order the plants today? Is the City going to provide the soil or do I need to buy it (at considerable additional expense to the BPA) but I will do it if necessary to get the plants in the ground ASAP.”
  - On 9/13/19, Jennifer Steel made a site visit to check on the straw wattles that defined the area to be planted.
  - Sometime between September 2019 and September 2020, without PRC knowledge or approval and without ConCom knowledge or approval, the BPA had a retaining wall installed in front of the concrete slab. The area in front of the retaining wall remains unvegetated.
  - PRC staff were surprised by the appearance of the wall.
  - The PRC will hear the issue on Oct 19, wherein staff will recommend keeping the wall.
  - PRC staff do not want the wall to become a seating wall because of likely trampling, littering, drinking, etc.

- PRC staff would like to leave the wall in place with after-the-fact permitting undertaken by BPA. PRC would like BPA to work with the contractor they hired to develop and provide the ConCom with all appropriate application information including plans and details of the wall.
  - PRC staff would like BPA to plant the area with native low, thorny shrubs and provide construction details of the wall.
  - The ConCom could issue BPA a notice of violation against the violator (disallowing foot passage below the wall, stabilizing the remainder of the site, planting some number of thorny shrubs by a date certain, ceasing all other activities) or else an EO will be forthcoming.
  - Demorizi noted that BPA avoided paying for complete stabilization and created potential nuisance on public land He suggested that he would craft a plan for 20 shrubs to accompany the Notice of Violation.
  - Zabel noted concern about maintaining good relations with BPA.
  - Gilligan noted BPA's reckless disregard for the rules.
  - Katz noted the need to educate the BPA about slope stabilization and the adverse effects of a seating wall.
- Vote: To have staff issue a memo to BPA and PRC requiring installation this season the "Skating Shed Area Planting Plan" developed by the PRC and provide detailed plans and details of the wall. [Motion: Gilligan; Second: Katz; Roll-call vote: Gilligan (aye), Lunin (aye); Green (aye), Zabel (aye), Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Katz (aye). Vote 7:0:0]
- 6. 191 Dedham Street – COC – (work never initiated) Path at Countryside School – DEP File #239-845**
- Owner/Applicant: City of Newton Representative: Tiffany Leung, Community Development Planner
  - Request: Issue COC.
  - Jurisdiction: Buffer Zone, BLSF, City Floodplain
  - Staff Notes: No staff site visit needed as work never commenced.
  - Vote: to issue a Certificate of Compliance for work never initiated. [Motion: Zabel; Second: Cade; Roll-call vote: Gilligan (aye), Lunin (aye); Green (aye), Zabel (aye), Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Katz (aye). Vote 7:0:0]
- 7. 93 Vine Street – COC – additions to SFH – DEP File #239-800**
- Owner/Applicant: Igor and Alina Berdichevsky Representative: none
  - Request: Issue COC.
  - Jurisdiction: Riverfront Area
  - Staff Notes: Staff site visit on 9/18/20 confirmed compliance; all required paperwork has been received.
  - Vote: to issue a complete Certificate of Compliance. [Motion: Gilligan; Second: Zabel; Roll-call vote: Gilligan (aye), Lunin (aye); Green (aye), Zabel (aye), Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Katz (aye). Vote 7:0:0]
- 8. 14 Phillips Lane – COC – addition to SFH – DEP File #239-796**
- Owner/Applicant: Louise Dube Representative: none
  - Request: Issue COC.
  - Jurisdiction: Buffer Zone, Riverfront Area
  - Staff Notes: Staff site visit on 9/21/20 confirmed compliance; all required paperwork has been received.
  - Vote: to issue a complete Certificate of Compliance. [Motion: Lunin; Second: Zabel; Roll-call vote: Gilligan (aye), Lunin (aye); Green (aye), Zabel (aye), Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Katz (aye). Vote 7:0:0]
- 9. 427 Crafts Street – COC – addition to SFH – DEP File #239-508**
- Owner/Applicant: Bill and Irina Spiegel Representative: none
  - Request: Issue COC.
  - Jurisdiction: Buffer Zone, Riverfront Area
  - Staff Notes: Staff site visit on 9/21/20 confirmed compliance; all required paperwork has been received.
  - Vote: to issue a complete Certificate of Compliance. [Motion: Katz; Second: Zabel; Roll-call vote: Gilligan (aye), Lunin (aye); Green (aye), Zabel (aye), Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Katz (aye). Vote 7:0:0]
- 10. 156 Otis Street – COC – teardown SFH and construct 2 new SFH – DEP File #239-801**
- Owner/Applicant: Brian Hickey Representative: none
  - Request: Issue COC.
  - Jurisdiction: Buffer Zone
  - Staff Notes: Staff site visit on 9/25/20 confirmed compliance; all required paperwork has been received.
  - Vote: to issue a complete Certificate of Compliance. [Motion: Gilligan; Second: Katz; Roll-call vote: Gilligan (aye), Lunin (aye); Green (aye), Zabel (aye), Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Katz (aye). Vote 7:0:0]
- 11. Consideration of a new standard "finding" in the ConCom's OOC template**

- Presentation (Jennifer Steel) and Discussion:
  - The Commission has noted their concern about applicants seeking modifications to their projects (e.g., further expansion of lawn, reduction of plant material, etc.) shortly after receiving a permit. Although the Commission cannot prohibit such requests, it can better document the reasoning behind its decisions.
  - Currently, every OOC has a “reasons for approval” section. Consider adding to this section, when appropriate, something to the effect of: “The Conservation Commission finds that this project, with the approved limits of work, required mitigation, and following conditions adequately protects the adjacent wetland resource area(s), but represents the full extent of buffer zone alteration that should be allowed and that requests for further alterations of the buffer zone or any diminution of approved and required mitigation measures should be very carefully conditioned or denied.”
  - Commissioners agreed with the concern and felt that they would like to impart to applicants the notion that “If you want to change your plans, you will have to show that you are improving the environment.”
- Consensus: Gilligan will consider the legal parameters of the issue. The Commission will discuss the matter at the next meeting.

## II. CONSERVATION AREA DECISIONS

### 12. Orienteering on Conservation Land

- Owner: ConCom
- Request: Parks, Recreation, and Culture (PRC) would like to establish permanent orienteering courses on three Conservation Areas: Flowed Meadow, Kennard, and Webster.
- Documents Presented: Program summary and sample map, site photos
- Presentation (Channon Ames, PRC) and Discussion:
  - PRC’s interest is in developing socially distanced activities, in this case, permanent orienteering courses and orienteering programs. Programs would be advertised through PRC, Scouts, summer camps, and established orienteering groups, primarily for beginners/learners (i.e., youth and families). Navigation Games, New England Orienteering Club, and Cambridge Sports Union spurred the idea.
  - PRC will be running a youth orienteering program for 4 Saturdays on PRC land.
  - The proposed permanent orienteering courses would consist of 4x4” posts with “control markers” and potentially QR codes on them, placed in various locations throughout the parcels. The idea is for participants to use maps and compasses to navigate from one point to the next.
  - Markers could be placed near trails, but users may not always remain on trails when traveling to each marker. This could lead to unofficial trail creation.
  - PRC would work with New England Orienteering Club and ConCom to place markers. PRC would pay for mapping. Eagle Scouts would install the markers. A QR code could be installed on every post for general education. Maps would only be offered as part of PRC programs in the beginning, and then later PRC would post the maps on-line
  - 6 locations have been considered for permanent courses based on the following criteria: >1 mile of trails, scattered throughout the City, more accessible trails, ample parking. The 6 locations are:
    - Cold Spring Park and The Cove: beginners courses (map reading skills) -- loops, fields – could avoid permanent markers Flowed Meadow
    - Kennard and Nahanton: mid-level courses (markers off trail and harder to see).
    - Webster and Edmands: challenging courses (markers off trail and hard to see)
  - Katz and Green noted concern about the sensitive vernal pool habitat in Webster.
  - Lunin suggested a pilot run to answer some questions/address some concerns.
  - Kennard was suggested as a good pilot project location because of the boardwalks and private property limiting off-trail access.
  - Hepburn noted concern about drawing many people to our Conservation parcels.
- Consensus: The Commission will consider a pilot project in Kennard with 10 4x4” post 2’ in the ground 3.5’ tall with control punch, sign medallion, and QR code. Channon Ames will run the idea past Friends of Kennard. Ames will bring a proposed map to the next ConCom meeting with marker locations for a possible spring installation, and programs in the spring, summer and fall Of 2021.

### 13. Benches and Plaques

- Staff Notes:
  - A Norumbega bench with a plaque, near dog water bowls, went missing.

- CC Coggins would like to donate a Norumbega bench(es) and a plaque in memory of her husband (and son) near the beech tree planted in memory of her son.
- Discussion
  - Cade suggested that required specifications be minimal (length, back, arms, material) to allow benches to be unique.
  - Cade suggested discrete markers/plaques and few strict guidelines.

### III. ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS

- 14. Guidelines for Construction in Flood Zone:** See Wetland Cases agenda item #4, above for the complete discussion.
- Vote to adopt guidelines as modified. [Motion: Zabel; Second: Lunin; Roll-call vote: Gilligan (aye), Lunin (aye); Green (aye), Zabel (aye), Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Katz (aye). Vote 7:0:0]
- 15. Minutes of 9/17/20 to be approved**
- Documents Presented: Draft minutes
  - Vote to accept the 9/17/20 minutes with edits accepted. [Motion: Lunin; Second: Gilligan; Roll-call vote: Gilligan (aye), Lunin (aye); Green (aye), Zabel (aye), Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Katz (abstain). Vote 6:0:1]

### IV. ISSUES AROUND TOWN DECISIONS – None at this point in time.

## UPDATES

### V. WETLANDS UPDATES – None at this point in time.

### VI. CONSERVATION AREA UPDATES

- Houghton Garden -- Phragmites – Solitude is due to treat it shortly.
- Encroachments: Several known encroachments are being addressed.

### VII. ISSUES AROUND TOWN UPDATES

- OSRP: Staff still await final state approval.
- OSRP Implementation: COVID has delayed initiation of an Implementation Committee.
- Christina Street Bridge Feasibility Study: Staff are working to get scope out for estimates and are taking steps to secure the required MBTA access license.
- DCR Lower Falls shared-use trail: DCR is planning for a shared-use trail from Two Bridges to I-95/Quinobequin. Staff have drafted comments. Other City staff are reviewing those draft comments.
- DCR Quinobequin trails: DCR is planning for a shared-use trail I-95/Quinobequin to Route 9. Public meeting is planned for October 8. Staff have drafted preliminary comments. Other City staff are reviewing those draft comments.
- Other major trail connections: Pigeon Hill, Comm. Ave Carriageway, Pony Truss, etc. all continue to be worked on.
- Climate Action rolls along! Website is almost up and running, solar installations continue, BlueBikes are here, and EV chargers are being installed.
- Stormwater Ordinance: A new draft is being developed for internal review.

### VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER UPDATES

- Office Move: The Conservation Office (and the rest of the Planning Department) is moving to the second floor of City Hall. Staff can now be found within the Inspectional Services Department and our assistance can be requested by the public at the Inspectional Services counter.
- Interns: Staff are considering establishing a part time college co-op position to assist with office and field work more independently than the high school interns have been able.

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

- 16. Honoring Ira Wallach.** Dan Green spoke with Ira's wife. Ira is very ill. Green would like to name the new trail in the Old Deer Park for Ira and, if possible, establish a gate to Hammond Pond Parkway, in honor of Ira's service to the ConCom for 23 years and chairmanship from ~1996-2020. The ConCom named the Helen Heyn Conservation Area in honor of her service, so there is precedent. The Commission discussed needing some threshold for such commemoration. Cade suggested that we just do this, and worry about guidelines and thresholds later. Katz noted Norm Richardson's long service as well and encouraged much greater recognition of service, in general.
- Katz suggested getting a certificate of appreciation from the Mayor.
  - Green will explore the possibility of an honorary plaque.
  - Steel and Rundelli will coordinate a montage video of commissioners' personal greetings.

## ADJOURN at 10:06

- Vote to adjourn. [Motion: Zabel; Second: Lunin; Roll-call vote: Gilligan (aye), Lunin (aye); Green (aye), Zabel (aye), Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Katz (aye). Vote 7:0:0]