CONSERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA

August 26, 2021

The Conservation Commission will hold this meeting as a virtual meeting on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 7:00 pm. No in-person meeting will take place at City Hall.

All meeting documents are available at: https://www.newtonma.gov/government/planning/boards-commissions/conservation-commission/meeting-documents

Zoom access information for the August 26, 2021 Conservation Commission meeting will be posted at the following web address 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

https://www.newtonma.gov/government/planning/boards-commissions/conservation-commission

Please feel free to email <u>isteel@newtonma.gov</u> and <u>crundelli@newtonma.gov</u> with any questions about filings prior to the meeting or access to the meeting.

NOTE: In addition to the documents presented in the Commission's packet (available on the Commission's website), full NOI 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. Discussions of wetland cases may be limited by the Chair.

DECISIONS

I. WETLANDS DECISIONS

- 1. (7:00) Presentation New Boardwalks at Flowed Meadow Eagle Scout Project
 - o Owners: City of Newton Applicant: Boulton Yanhs
 - Request: Eagle Scout candidate Boulton Yanhs seeks permission and wetland permitting approval for installing wooden boardwalks, supported by corrugated plastic footings, to improve trail access in the wet areas of Flowed Meadow Conservation Area.
- 2. (7:15) 96 Lake Avenue cont'd NOI teardown/rebuild single-family home DEP File #239-902
 - Owner/Applicant: Tamar and Philip Warburg Representative: Dana Altobello, Merrill Engineers and Land Surveyors
 - Request: Issue an OOC.
- 3. (7:25) Levingston Cove (Crystal lake) NOI park improvements DEP File #239-901
 - Owner: City of Newton <u>Applicant</u>: Luis Perez Demorizi, Open Space Coordinator <u>Representative</u>: Alexandra Gaspar, Weston & Sampson Engineers
 - o Request: Issue an OOC.
- 4. (7:45) 409 Crafts Street RDA tree removal
 - Owner/Applicant: Chris and Carl Attardo Representative: none
 - Request: Issue a DOA.
- 5. (8:05) 14 Walnut Hill Road violation, initial informal discussion construction of hardscaping in buffer zone
 - Owner: the Boisclair's Representative: Terry Boisclair
 - Request: Determine appropriate next steps for ex post facto permitting of the hardscaping.
- 6. (8:20) 45 Puddingstone Lane informal discussion DEP #239-832
 - o <u>Owner</u>: Temple Beth Avodah <u>Representative</u>: none
 - <u>Request</u>: Determine appropriate planting/seeding mix for area at base of slope.
- 7. (8:30) 580 Walnut Street COC Request new patio DEP #239-721
 - Owner: Gaurav Singal Representative: none
 - o Request: Issue COC.
- 8. (8:35) 178-180 Sumner Street COC Request addition onto SFH DEP #239-763
 - o <u>Owner</u>: Min Yang <u>Representative</u>: none
 - o Request: Issue COC.

II. CONSERVATION AREA DECISIONS

9. (8:40) Minor revision to Apiary Policy language

III. ADMNISTRATIVE DECISIONS



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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10. (8:50) Minutes of 8/5/21 to be approved

IV. ISSUES AROUND TOWN DECISIONS

UPDATES

V. WETLANDS UPDATES

VI. CONSERVATION AREA UPDATES

VII. ISSUES AROUND TOWN UPDATES

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

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

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Please feel free to email <u>jsteel@newtonma.gov</u> and <u>crundelli@newtonma.gov</u> with any questions about filings prior to the meeting or access to the meeting.

NOTE: In addition to the documents presented in the Commission's packet (available on the Commission's website), full NOI 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. Discussions of wetland cases may be limited by the Chair.

DECISIONS

I. WETLANDS DECISIONS

- 1. (7:00) Presentation New Boardwalks at Flowed Meadow Eagle Scout Project
 - o Owners: City of Newton Applicant: Boulton Yanhs
 - Request: Eagle Scout candidate Boulton Yanhs seeks permission and wetland permitting approval for installing wooden boardwalks, supported by corrugated plastic footings, to improve trail access in the wet areas of Flowed Meadow Conservation Area.
 - o <u>Documents Presented</u>: PowerPoint presentation by Boulton Yanhs
 - o Jurisdiction: Buffer Zone, RFA
 - Staff Notes:
 - Flowed Meadow trails are in real need of expanded boardwalk coverage.
 - Boulton is proposing to address the most needed sections of trail.
 - Staff Recommendations: If appropriate, vote to approve the proposed work under the Generic Trails Order of Conditions.
- 2. (7:15) 96 Lake Avenue cont'd NOI teardown/rebuild single-family home DEP File #239-902
 - Owner/Applicant: Tamar and Philip Warburg Representative: Dana Altobello, Merrill Engineers and Land Surveyors
 - o Request: Issue an OOC.
 - o <u>Documents Presented</u>: Colored plans, site photos, draft OOC
 - o Jurisdiction: Buffer Zone, City Floodplain
 - o Performance Standards
 - <u>Buffer Zone. 10.53(1)</u>: General Provisions: "For work in the Buffer Zone subject to review under 310 CMR 10.02(2)(b)3., the Issuing Authority shall impose conditions to protect the interests of the Act identified for the adjacent Resource Area. ... The purpose of preconstruction review of work in the Buffer Zone is to ensure that adjacent Resource Areas are not adversely affected during or after completion of the work."
 - <u>City Floodplain</u>. Sec. 22-22. Floodplain/Watershed Protection Provisions.
 - (b)(1) Except as provided in subsections (b)(2) and (e) of this section, no building or other structure shall be erected, constructed, altered, enlarged or otherwise created for any residence or other purpose ... which will restrict floodwater flow or reduce floodwater storage capacity shall be permitted.



Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

> Director Planning & Development Barney Heath

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- (b)(2) ... the conservation commission may issue an order of conditions for the following uses in the Floodplain/Watershed Protection District:
 - a) Any building or structure for which compensatory storage is provided ...

Project Summary

- Note: much of the site work is outside Commission jurisdiction.
- Demolish existing single-family home, including driveway and rear patio.
- Construct new single-family home with permeable paver driveway, concrete patio, paver patio, and stormwater systems. A very small increase in impervious area within the 100-foot buffer is proposed.
- Replace back yard stone stair edging to provide safety.
- Undertake repairs to stabilize the retaining wall that defines the bank of Crystal Lake
- Removal of invasive shrubs is proposed. No trees are proposed to be removed within Commission jurisdiction.
- Mitigation plantings are proposed close to the Lake and include 57 native shrubs and herbaceous plants.

Staff Notes

- This project has not been revised since the Commission last discussed on 8/5/21.
- A DEP File number has been received.
- o <u>Staff Recommendations</u>: Vote to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions with the following conditions.
 - Approve two plan sheets as the Plans of Record:
 - Site Plan 96 Lake Ave., last revised 8/2/21, Sheet 1 of 1, Merrill Engineering and Land Surveyors. NOTE that all landscaping details on this sheet are superseded by Landscape Plan, Sheet A0-51, 7/29/21
 - o Landscape Plan, Sheet A0-51, 7/29/21, Place Tailor, Inc.
 - The stairs may be reconstructed and widened for safety purposes up to 4' wide in their current alignment and length but said reconstruction may not disturb the mature trees nearby. Grading of the adjacent slopes has not been proposed and is not hereby approved.
 - The minor grading changes associated with the proposed swale are approved. The new swale must be stabilized with the New England Wetland Plants Detention Basin mix and, if necessary, and erosion control blanket.
 - Buckthorn, bittersweet, and winged euonymus may be removed from throughout the site if so desired by the owners.
 - The proposed 42-inch fence along the northeastern property line must be raised 4-6" to allow for wildlife passage.
 - Any new "wrought iron" fence along the rear property line (shared with Crystal Lake) must be raised 4-6" to allow for wildlife passage.
 - Approved repairs to stabilize the retaining wall that defines the bank of Crystal Lake are limited to the injection of low-toxicity grout. More involved reconstruction of the wall and/or stairs is not hereby permitted.
 - Mitigation plantings must be installed as per the approved plans and at least 75% of shrubs and 75% aerial coverage of groundcover must survive after 2 growing seasons.
 - If any trees within the project area die within 2 years of the start of construction or have been demonstrably harmed by construction activities, they shall be replaced at a ratio of 2:1 with native canopy saplings (of roughly 2 caliper inches).

3. (7:25) Levingston Cove (Crystal lake) – NOI – park improvements – DEP File #239-901

- Owner: City of Newton <u>Applicant</u>: Luis Perez Demorizi, Open Space Coordinator <u>Representative</u>: Alexandra Gaspar,
 Weston & Sampson Engineers
- o Request: Issue an OOC.
- o Documents Presented: Colored plans, site photos, draft OOC
- o <u>Jurisdiction</u>: Bank, City Floodplain, LUWW
- Performance Standards

Bank: 310 CMR 10.54

- (a) Work on a Bank shall not impair the following:
 - The physical stability of the Bank;
 - 2. The water carrying capacity of the existing channel within the Bank;
 - 3. Ground water and surface water quality;
 - 4. The capacity of the Bank to provide breeding habitat, escape cover and food for fisheries;
 - 5. The capacity of the Bank to provide important wildlife habitat functions. ...
 - 6. Work on a stream crossing ..

- (b) Structures may be permitted in or on a Bank ...
- (c) No project may be permitted which will have any adverse effect on specified habitat sites of Rare Species.

• LUWW: 10.56

- (a) Work shall not impair the following:
- 1. The water carrying capacity within the defined channel, which is provided by said land in conjunction with the banks;
- 2. Ground and surface water quality;
- 3. The capacity of said land to provide breeding habitat, escape cover and food for fisheries; and
- 4. The capacity of said land to provide important wildlife habitat functions. ...
- 5. Work on a stream crossing ...
- (b) The issuing authority may issue an Order to maintain or improve boat channels
- (c) No project may be permitted which will have any adverse effect on rare species.

• City Floodplain. Sec. 22-22. Floodplain/Watershed Protection Provisions.

- (b)(1) Except as provided in subsections (b)(2) and (e) of this section, no building or other structure shall be erected, constructed, altered, enlarged or otherwise created for any residence or other purpose ... which will restrict floodwater flow or reduce floodwater storage capacity shall be permitted.
- (b)(2) ... the conservation commission may issue an order of conditions for the following uses in the Floodplain/Watershed Protection District:
 - a) Any building or structure for which compensatory storage is provided ...

o Project Summary

- Install a new decking system that will cantilever out over the edge of Crystal Lake and add passive recreation space to the park's footprint.
- Install new ADA-compliant pathways.
- Regrade and introduce terraced walls that ease steep slopes, in conjunction with new native plant installations to stabilize eroded slopes and replace invasive species along the bank.
- Install rain gardens and infiltration trenches at the toe of steep slopes that collect and convey stormwater. Rain gardens will have overflows that lead into Crystal Lake.
- Add stone veneer to outside face of existing retaining wall along the lake edge.
- Remove bittersweet, glossy buckthorn, multiflora rose, and purple loosestrife from the park.
- Remove 1 tree.
- Proposed plantings include 7 trees, 159 shrubs, 559 herbaceous perennials, 1442 upland grasses/rushes/sedges, and 519 aquatic grasses/perennials.

Staff Notes:

- This project will likely meet all the performance standards of the Wetland protection regulations. The process of the project must be clarified and conditioned.
- In the narrative (and on the plans, as appropriate) the applicant should expand descriptions of anticipated processes such as:
 - o Excavation
 - Stockpiling
 - Dewatering
 - Concrete washout
- The applicant should ensure the narrative addresses the severe soil compaction of the site, staff concerns about
 the challenge of rain gardens thriving, and staff concerns about the challenge of establishing seed mixes on steep
 slopes.
- The applicant should clarify:
 - chapter 91 status,
 - o anticipated timing of the work,
 - o what work is proposed in the BVW (L1.11), and
 - tree protection (L1.11 and L5.00).
 - L5.00 Type A appears to be just trunk protection but says root zone will be protected.
 - L5.00 Type B appears to be full root zone protection, but it says, "where space allows", and the lines on L1.11 appears to be full area fencing.
 - There is little room to protect many of the trees.

- The 30" tree just outside the work zone to the north should be protected.
- Several large trees near the existing path don't have any individual protection shown.
- L1.20 what is "lightweight fill"?
- Why grading changes are proposed beyond the edge of the water (L1.41)?
- O Why there must be any (admittedly minor) grading so close to mature trees?
- What the "add alt cofferdam with sandbags" (L1.10) pertains to? (stone veneer work?)
- o What treatment methods and timing are planned for invasive species removal?
- What "synthetic turf reinforcement material" (narrative pg 2) is? (the 70-21-10 soil mixture?)
- O Where the cross-sections A-D are located on the plan view?
- o L5.07 Turf Reinforcement detail. "tree mix"? (seed mix?) please add the specs to the plan.
- \$101 "Section through pile cap" detail say "embed micropiles 6". Is that correct?
- S101 is the cantilevered deck secured with bolts, not "deadmen"?
- Suggested plan and narrative changes:
 - o Change in the narrative and L1.10 "straw wattles" to "staked silt fence and staked compost sock"
 - The narrative states (confusingly) that the City Floodplain is at 149'. It is, on the CNVD. But that is 142.5' NAVD88, the datum of the plans. Therefore, the cut and fill information in the narrative pages 4&5 is inaccurate
 - Add cofferdam details.
 - Add the Turf Reinforcement specs to the plan.
 - Add dewatering information.
 - Add stockpiling locations.
- Staff Recommendations: Await responses to staff notes (and Commissioners' questions).

4. (7:45) 409 Crafts Street - RDA - tree removal

- Owner/Applicant: Chris and Carl Attardo Representative: none
- o Request: Issue a DOA.
- o <u>Documents Presented</u>: Colored plans, site photos, draft DOA
- o Jurisdiction: Buffer Zone, Riverfront Area
- Performance Standards
 - Riverfront Area: 10.58(4)
 - c) No Practicable and Substantially Equivalent Economic Alternatives.
 - d) No Significant Adverse Impact.
 - 1. Within 200-foot riverfront areas, the issuing authority may allow the alteration of up to 5000 square feet or 10% of the riverfront area within the lot, whichever is greater ..., provided that:
 - a. At a minimum, a 100' wide area of undisturbed vegetation is provided... preserved or extended to the max. extent feasible....
 - b. Stormwater is managed ...
 - c. Proposed work does not impair the capacity ... to provide important wildlife habitat functions. ...
 - d. ... incorporating erosion and sedimentation controls ... to attenuate nonpoint source pollution.

10.58(5) RFA: Redevelopment within Previously Developed Riverfront Areas; Restoration & Mitigation

- ... work <u>improves</u> existing conditions.
- Redevelopment means ... reuse of degraded or previously developed areas.
- A previously developed riverfront area contains areas degraded prior to August 7, 1996....
- Work to redevelop previously developed riverfront areas shall ...:
 - (a) At a minimum, work shall result in an improvement over existing conditions ...
 - (b) <u>Stormwater</u> management is provided according to standards
 - (c) Proposed work shall not be closer to the river than existing conditions or 100', whichever is less
 - (d) Proposed work...shall be located... away from the river, except in accordance with 10.58(5)(f) or (g).
 - (e) proposed work shall not exceed the ... degraded area ... except in accordance with 10.58(5)(f) or (g).
 - (f) despite what it says in 310 CMR 10.58(5)(c), (d), and (e), more alteration at the RFA outer boundary may be allowed if an applicant proposes restoration ... of at least 1:1 ...
 - (g) despite what it says in 310 CMR 10.58(5)(c), (d), or (e), more alteration at the RFA outer boundary may be allowed if an applicant proposes mitigation ... of at least 2:1

(h) The issuing authority shall include a continuing condition in the COC ...under 10.58(5)(f) or (g) prohibiting further alteration within the restoration or mitigation area....

Project Summary

- Remove 5 trees from property at surface grade. No stump grinding is proposed.
 - Tree 1 20" Crimson Maple damaged
 - Tree 2 20" Black Locust dead
 - Tree 3 10" Black Locust leaning towards house
 - Tree 4 14" Black Locust root system damaging driveway
 - Tree 5 23" Norway maple –close to house

Staff Notes:

- The applicant is proposing to remove these trees and present a mitigation planting plan in the coming months as he prepares a Notice of Intent application for the renovation of the house in preparation for sale.
- Staff are concerned that separating the permitting of mitigation planting from the permitting of tree removal sets a bad precedent.
- Staff feel that until an NOI is submitted, the request to remove trees must be considered on its own therefore any required mitigation must be considered at this point in time.
- Staff have concerns about how a lot this small will be able to support the anticipated replacement plantings for the proposed tree removal, especially without an understanding of what expansion/renovations will proposed to the house itself.
- City Forester, Marc Welch, has asked for a complete tree removal permit application and will determine what, if any, tree replacement would be required under the City's tree ordinance based on his (as yet outstanding) assessment of the health of the trees.
- There are three mature trees on the lot the applicant is not proposing to remove. These trees should be protected during any tree removal activity on site to ensure there is no confusion in what trees are to be removed.
- Since 5 trees have been requested to be removed, staff cannot administratively approve. The Tree Replacement Policy states that the ½' for each 1" cut may be reduced for hazard tree replacement. The Admin Approval form suggests 1 sapling for each 8-16", 2 saplings for each 16-24", 3 saplings for each >24" hazard tree cut.
- It is staff's opinion that trees 3 and 4 do not pose immediate risk and so should remain at this time. The Commission may wish to require a report from a certified arborist (including Marc Welch) prior to approving the removal of trees 3, and/or 4.
 - The Black Locust tree (tree 4) does not appear to pose an imminent risk to the structure.
 - The smallest Black Locust (tree 3) is leaning over the house slightly, but does not seem to pose a imminent risk to the structure.
- It is staff's opinion that trees 1, 2 and 5 could be approved to be removed by the Commission as hazards, with appropriate mitigation.
 - Staff agree that the dying Black Locust (tree 2) poses a significant risk to the house.
 - o Staff feel that the Norway maple (tree 5) behind the home leans over the home and so poses some risk.
 - Staff feel that the maple (tree 1) along the street edge shows signs of decline, and may pose a risk to pedestrians and/or the structure.
- It the applicant does not wish to provide a mitigation plan and install mitigation plantings immediately following tree removal, the Commission may wish to require an NOI for the intended tree removal and construction project.
- Staff Recommendations: If appropriate, vote to issue negative 3 Determination of Applicability for the removal of trees
 1, 2 and 5 with the following special conditions DOA to be held until a mitigation planting plan has been received by the Conservation Office and approved by Conservation staff.
 - Applicant must schedule a pre-work site visit with staff to ensure tree protection is installed.
 - Trees not approved to be removed must be protected by orange snow fencing at the drip line (as possible) prior to any work on site.
 - No stump grubbing may occur.

5. (8:05) 14 Walnut Hill Road - violation, initial informal discussion - construction of hardscaping in buffer zone

- Owner: the Boisclair's Representative: Terry Boisclair
- o Request: Determine appropriate next steps for ex post facto permitting of the hardscaping.
- Documents Presented: Aerial, photos

- Jurisdiction: LUWW, Bank
- o Performance Standards:

• Bank: 310 CMR 10.54

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Staff Notes:

- Staff feel that the "drainage stream" qualifies as an "intermittent stream" since it originates upgradient and appears to be the beginning of "Stearns Brook".
- DPW is not aware of a functioning culvert draining the "pond", but the "Stearns Brook" drainage easement traverses the 14 Walnut Hill Road lot and the historical existence of a "hole" through which water has always drained indicates that a culvert was installed at one point in time.
- In response to some flooding reports on the private properties bordering Oakdale Woods Conservation Area, staff discovered some unpermitted hardscaping: a stone-lined pond (with aeration features) and a stone bridge within the stream corridor of Stearns Brook, an intermittent stream.
- The owner has provided the following background on the issue.
 - "There is an above ground drainage stream which starts at one end of Oakdale woods and runs parallel to Route nine. This drainage stream then ends in the corner of our backyard, where it funnels into a hole leading underground. All my life the backyard has occasionally flooded during periods of prolonged torrential rains. Large amounts of water rapidly come out of a hole on the other end of Oakdale woods during heavy rains and flow directly into our back yard. When the rain is too heavy or prolonged it occasionally causes pooling in our yard. It always drains completely within 24 hours. Apparently before I was born, my father said the city used to periodically dredge the drainage stream. But that stopped probably sometime in the 1970s. The situation as I was growing up was that the approximately 1-foot hole leading into the ground in our yard would always get covered with sticks, leaves and debris from the running water going into the drainage hole. In fact, when I was younger, I also had to remove a dead raccoon from the hole. It seems to be a natural rocky formation of a cavern leading under our yard. It is not a pipe or man-made drainage hole from what we can tell. In 2010 I constructed the stone bridge and pond as a decoration, and as a solution to the flooding problem. I constructed a permanent drainage hole at the site of the existing hole with a drainage grate to allow for better water flow during the torrential rains. The pond was dug down below the natural ground level of the drainage stream. When the stream fills up, the water runs down the stream through the pond directly into the drainage hole as it always had, even before the pond was built.
- The decorative structures (pond rim, fountain, and bridge) were constructed without permits.
- The Commission must determine whether said construction degraded the wetland resources (bank of intermittent stream and land under water) and whether any mitigation/alteration should be required.
- The Commission must determine whether an after-the-fact NOI or RDA should be required to ensure that the constructed hardscape meets regulatory standards.
- Staff Recommendations: None at this time.

6. (8:20) 45 Puddingstone Lane - informal discussion - DEP #239-832

- Owner: Temple Beth Avodah Representative: none
- Request: Determine appropriate planting/seeding mix for area at base of slope.
- <u>Documents Presented</u>: photos
- o Staff Notes:
 - The area at the base of the revegetated slope, where the old amphitheater was removed, was approved to be seeded with the New England Wetland Seed Mix Wildflower Mix. It has now been seeded twice with no success, likely due to heavy shade and the extreme rainfall this year.
 - Temple representatives are looking for guidance on what the Commission would suggest to revegetate this area successfully.
 - Staff would recommend Clethra (Sweet Pepperbush) in this area, as it will likely revegetate this area quickly.
- Staff Recommendations: Approve 6 Clethra shrubs to be planted at the base of the slope.

7. (8:30) 580 Walnut Street - COC Request - new patio - DEP #239-721

- Owner: Gaurav Singal Representative: none
- o Request: Issue COC.
- o Staff Notes: All required COC materials have been received and a site visit on 8/16/21 confirmed compliance.
- o <u>Staff Recommendations</u>: Vote to issue a Certificate of Compliance.

8. (8:35) 178-180 Sumner Street – COC Request – addition onto SFH – DEP #239-763

- Owner: Min Yang Representative: none
- o Request: Issue COC.
- Staff Notes: All required COC materials have been received and a site visit is scheduled on 8/23/21 to confirm compliance.
- Staff Recommendations: Vote to issue a Certificate of Compliance.

II. CONSERVATION AREA DECISIONS

9. (8:40) Minor revision to Apiary Policy language

- Documents Presented: Revised draft policy
- Staff Notes:
 - Add to the introduction: "To facilitate planning and oversight, the Commission requires all licensed beekeepers to come before the Commission annually (usually in the summer) to give status updates and discuss their interests in for applying for license renewals."
 - Add to definitions: "Temporary 90 days or less"
 - Simplify the description of allowed colony density **FROM**: "The apiary shall comprise no more than two colonies at the start and end of each season. On a temporary basis, these colonies may be split in order to prevent swarming and then re-combined later in the same year. A Nuc used for splitting is considered a temporary colony. If a split results in an independently viable hive, the new hive shall count toward the total number of hives allowed on the site." **TO** "The licensed apiary shall comprise no more than two hives year-round. One additional nucleus colony, not to exceed 4 cubic feet, is permitted for a period not to exceed 90 days."
- o <u>Staff Recommendations</u>: Vote to approve these minor modifications.

III. ADMNISTRATIVE DECISIONS

10. (8:50) Minutes of 8/5/21 to be approved

- Documents Presented: Draft 8/5/21 minutes
- Staff Recommendations: Vote to accept the 8/5/21 minutes.

IV. ISSUES AROUND TOWN DECISIONS - None at this time.

UPDATES

V. WETLANDS UPDATES

<u>Charles River Lower Basin Aquatic Weed Control OOC</u>: The OOC must be issued by 8/26/21 to meet the 21-day obligation.
 Staff will inform the Commission of any additional conditions added to the reviewed and approved OOC, based on input from Boston and Cambridge.

VI. CONSERVATION AREA UPDATES

o <u>622 Boylston Encroachment into Oakdale Woods</u>: Staff are working with the maintenance contractor to secure a date to install the birdhouses.

VII. ISSUES AROUND TOWN UPDATES

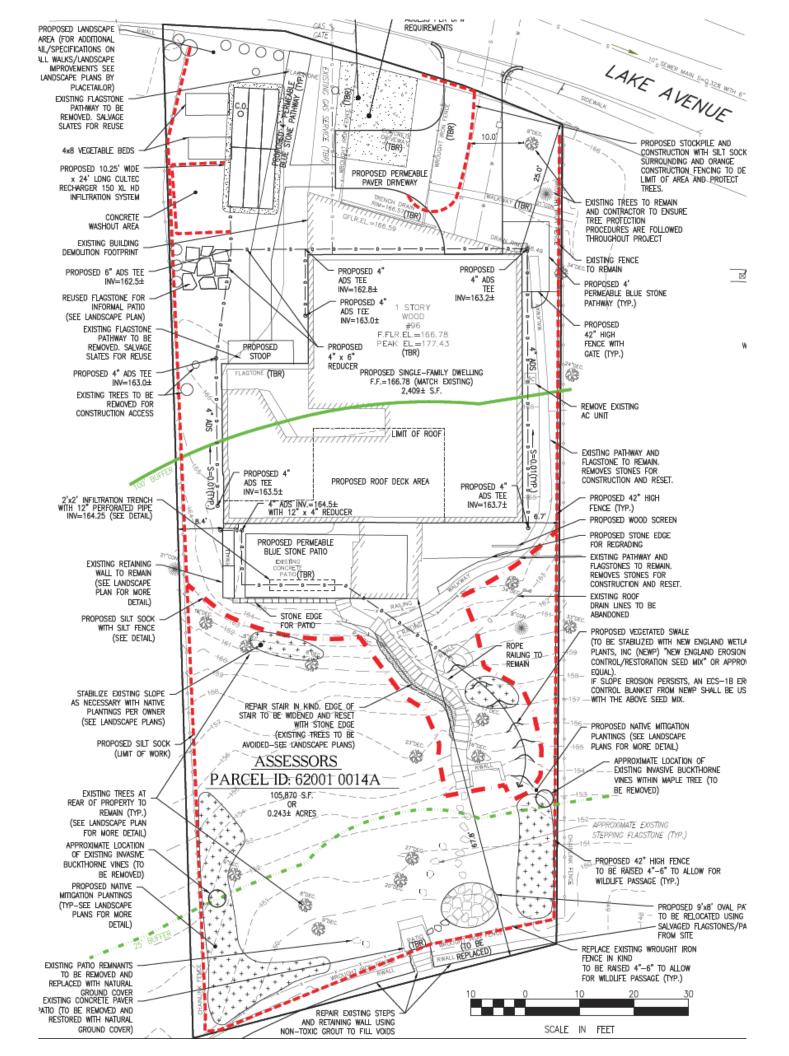
VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

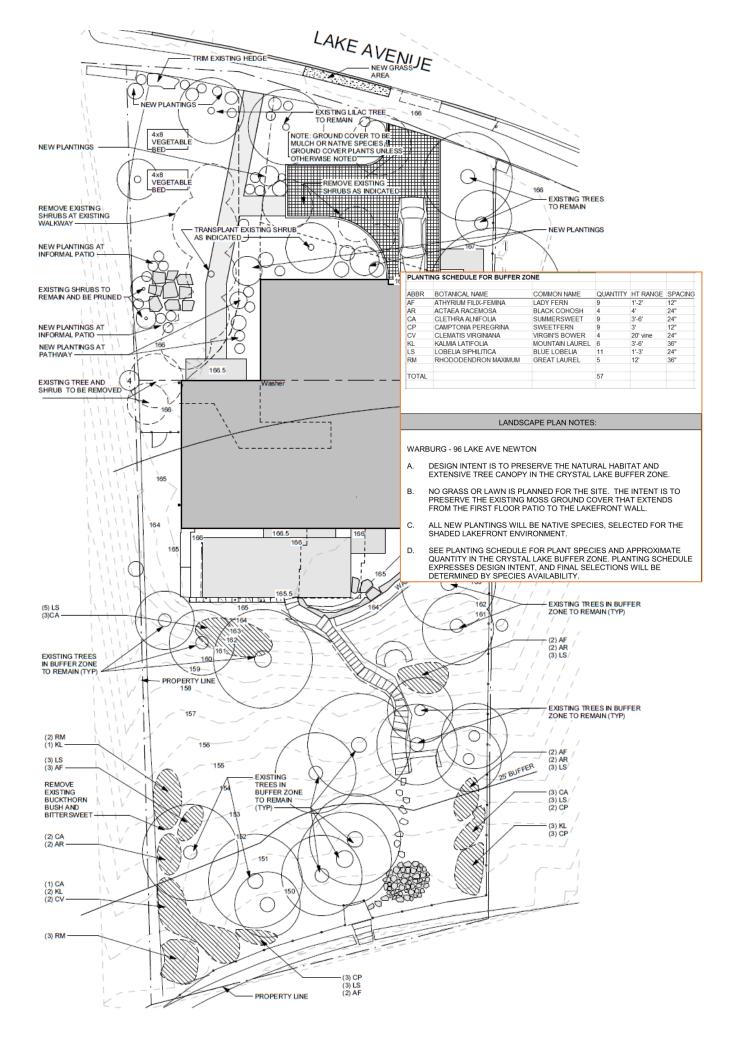
- o <u>Staff update</u>: The August 26th meeting will be Assistant Environmental Planner Claire Rundelli's last meeting. She has accepted a position as the Planner Conservation Agent in the Town of Natick and starts September 8th.
- Commission update: Staff had an interview with Sonya McKnight, who submitted an application for the Conservation
 Commission. Staff have recommended her to the Mayor to be appointed as an associate position for the Commission.

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

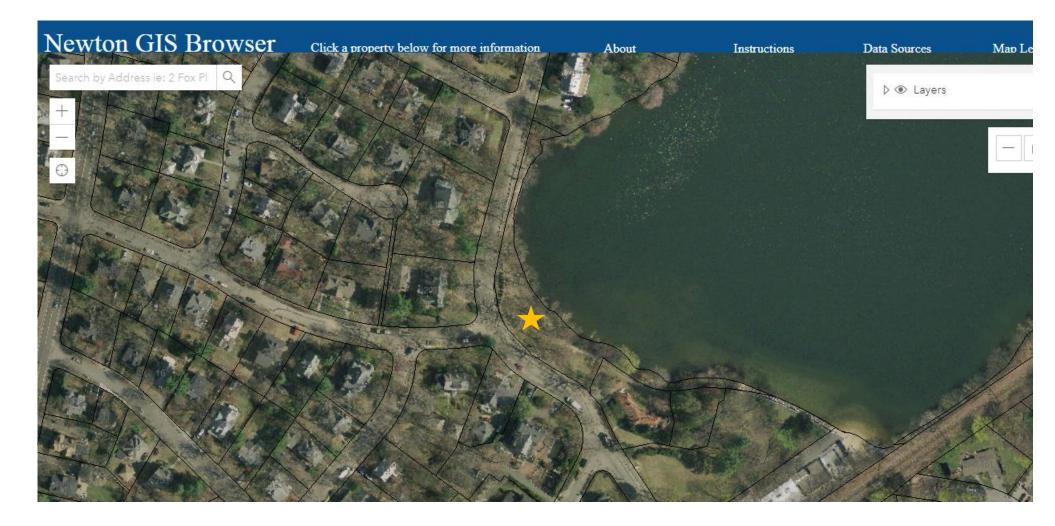
96 Lake Avenue Aerial

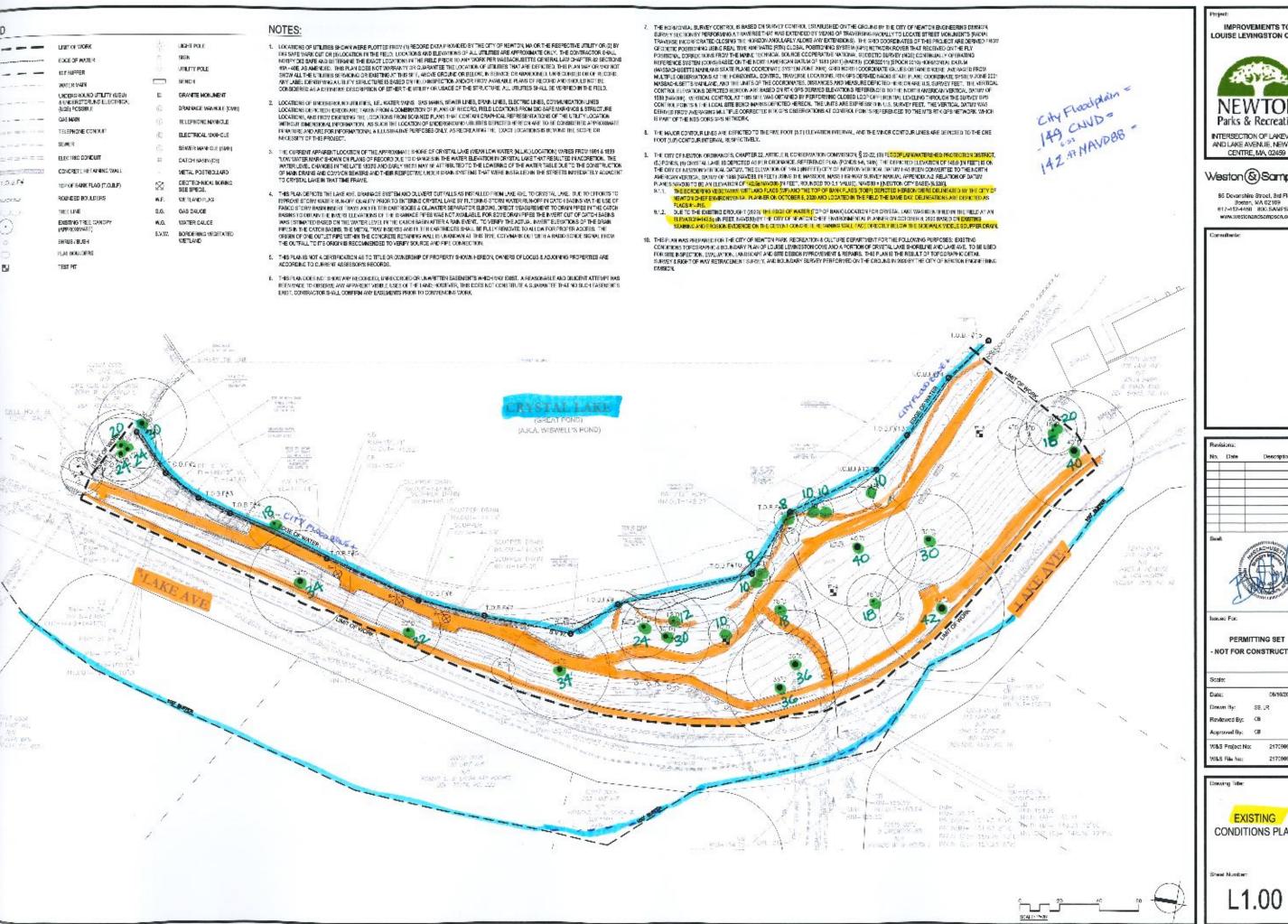






Levingston Cove Aerial





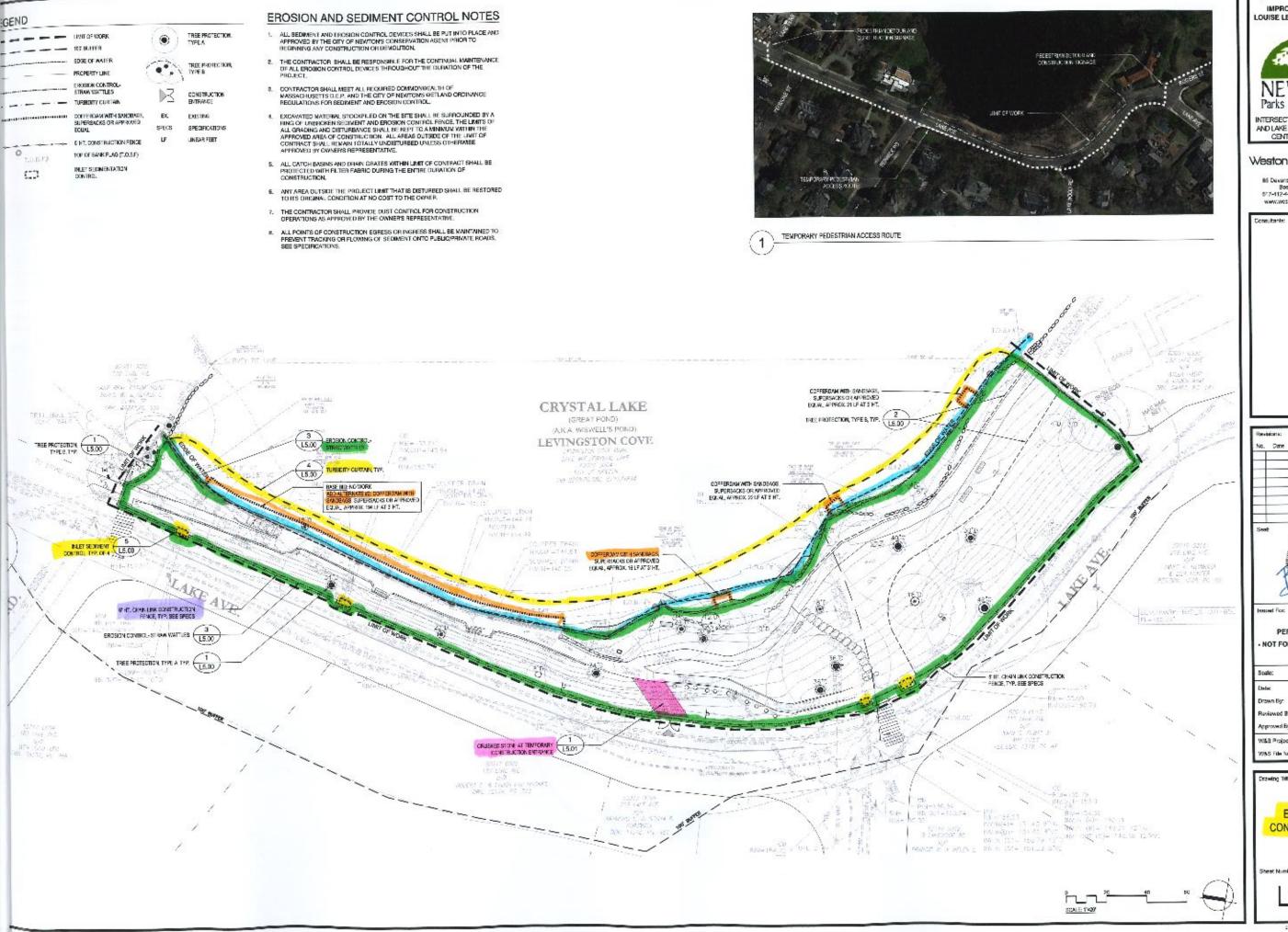
IMPROVEMENTS TO OUISE LEVINGSTON COVE Parks & Recreation INTERSECTION OF LAKEVIEW AND LAKE AVENUE, NEWTON

Weston & Sampson

95 Devenshire Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02109 617-412-4480 800.SAMPSON

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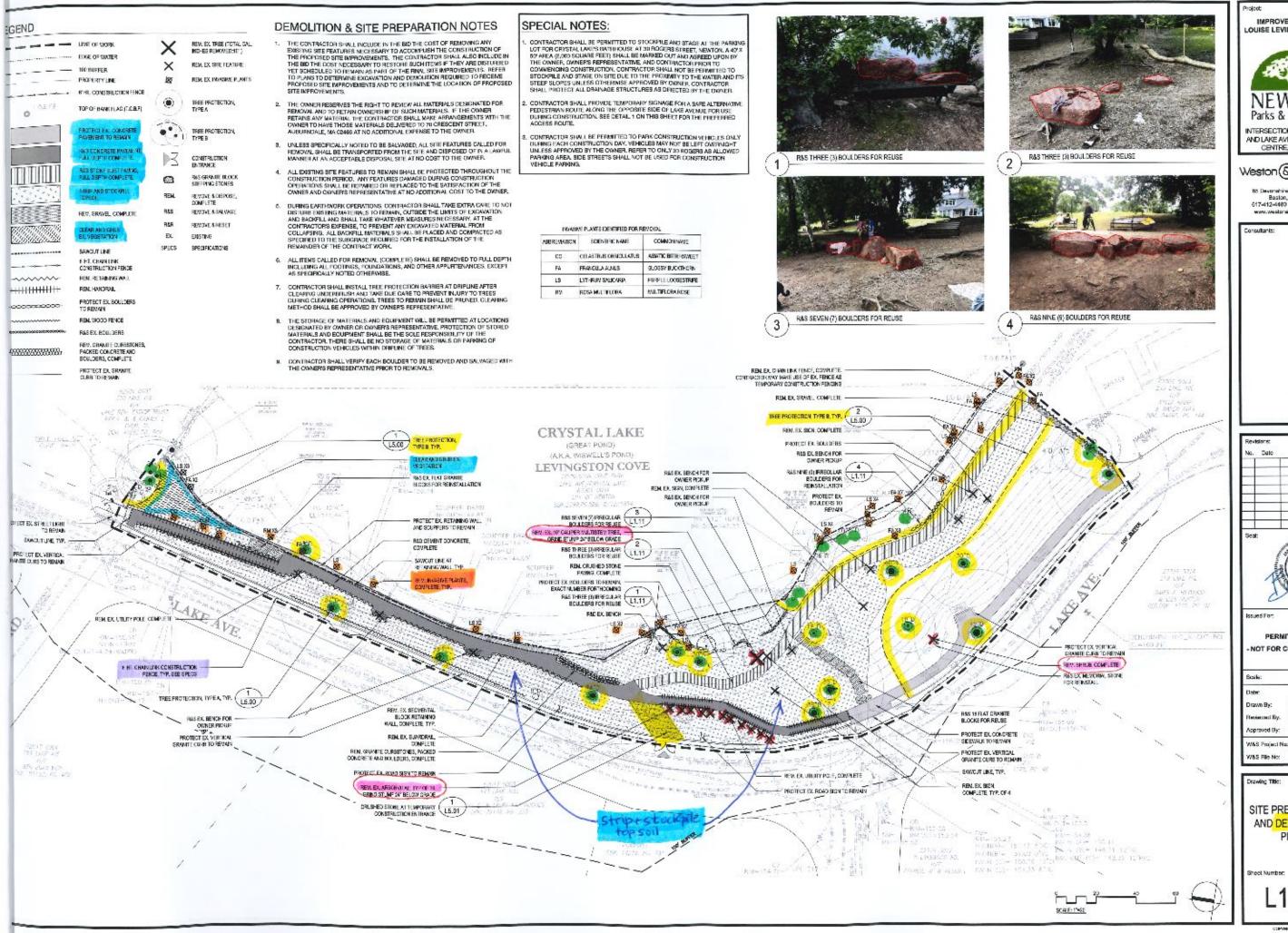


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IMPROVEMENTS TO LOUISE LEVINGSTON COVE

NEWTON Parks & Recreation

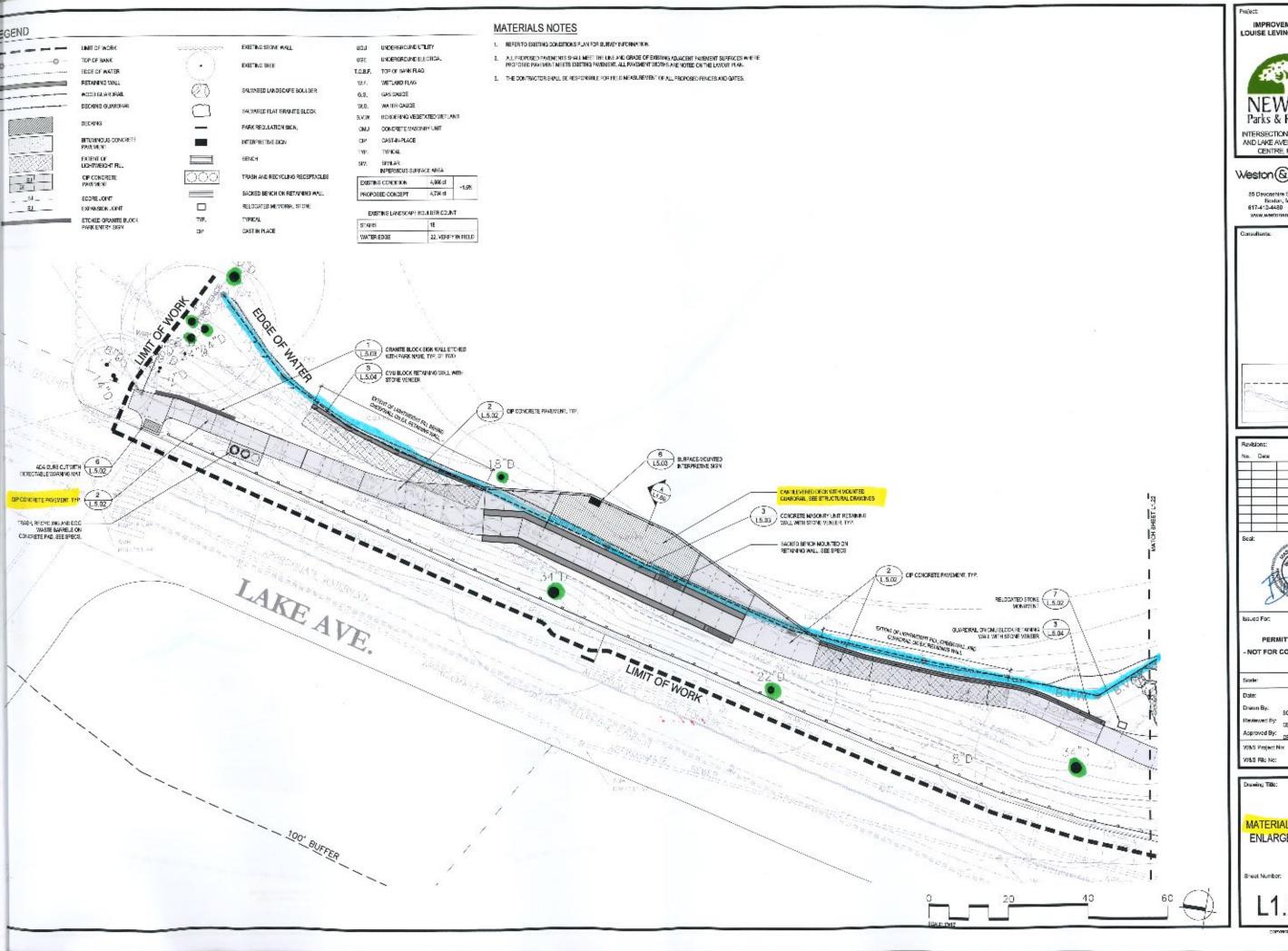
INTERSECTION OF LAKEVIEW AND LAKE AVENUE, NEWTON CENTRE MA 02459

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IMPROVEMENTS TO Parks & Recreation INTERSECTION OF LAKEVIEW AND LAKE AVENUE, NEWTON CENTRE, MA, 02459

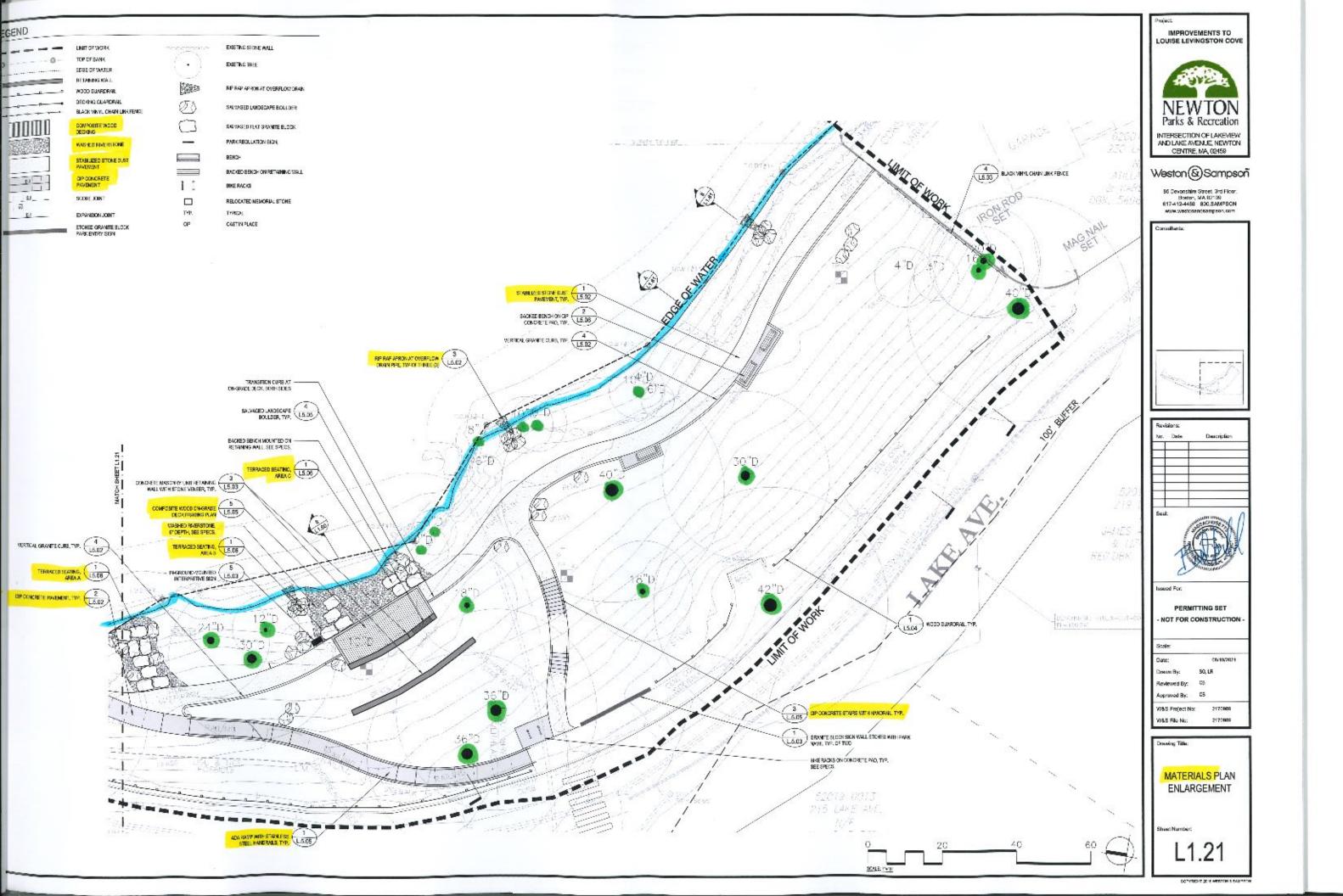
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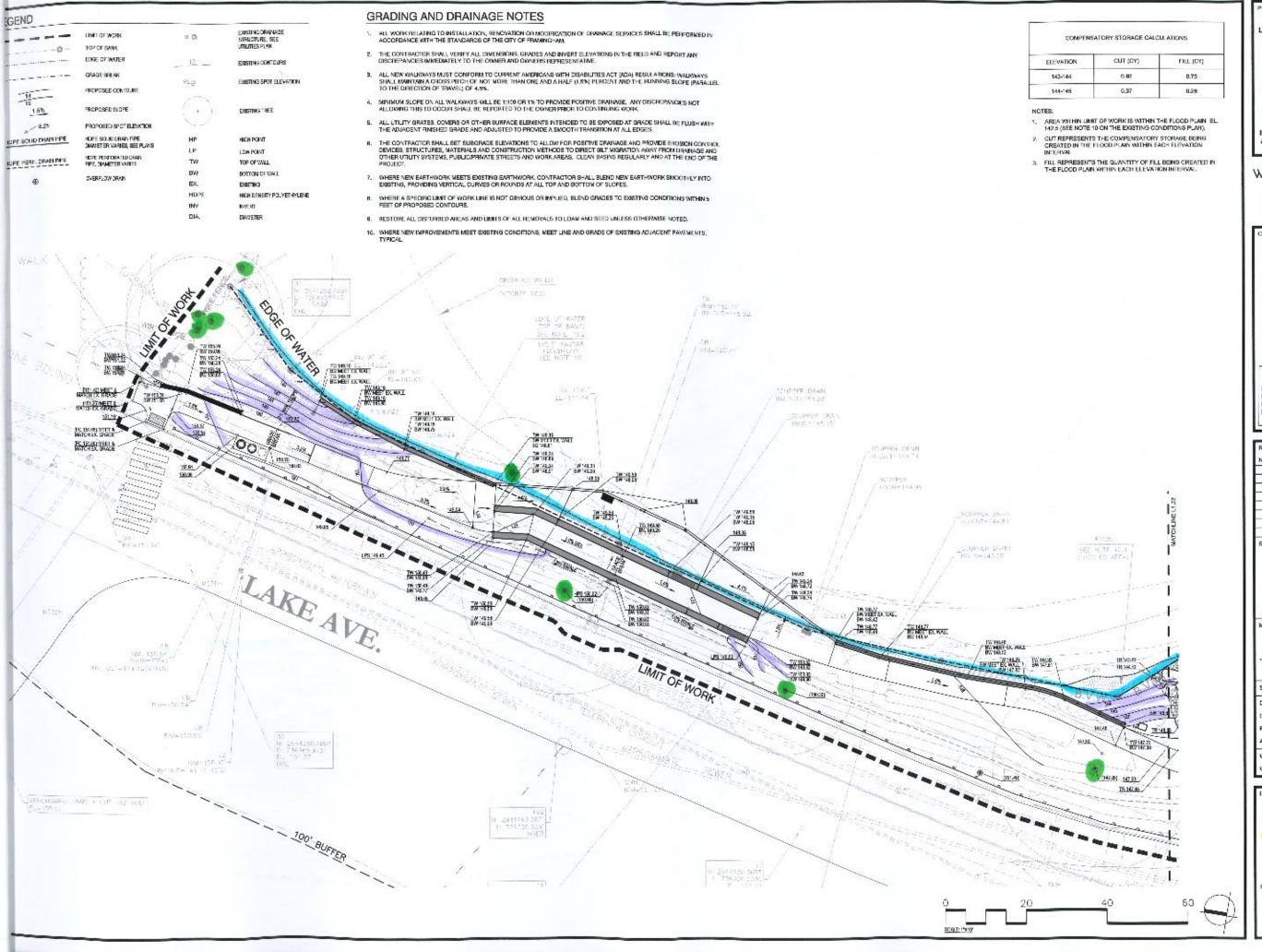
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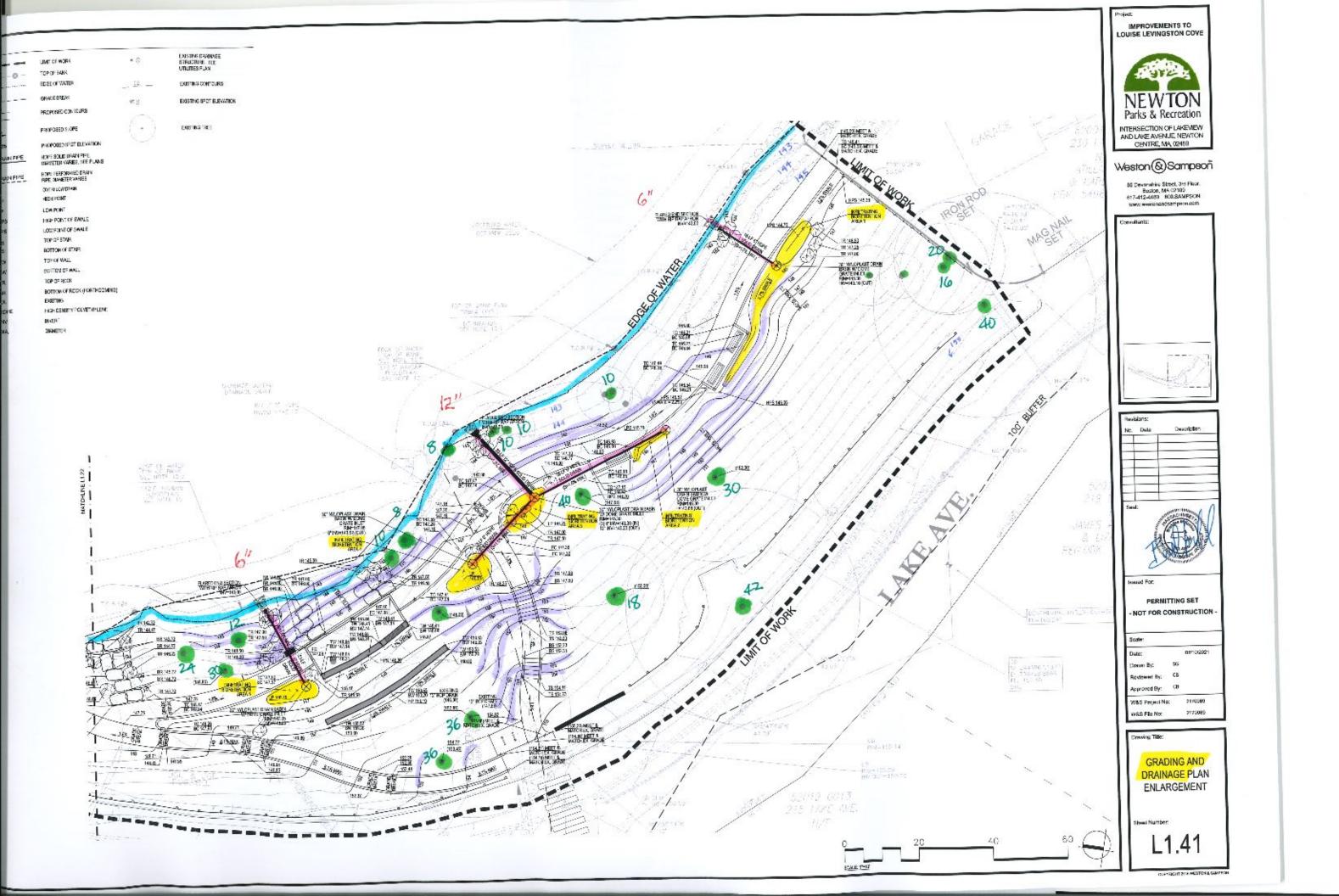
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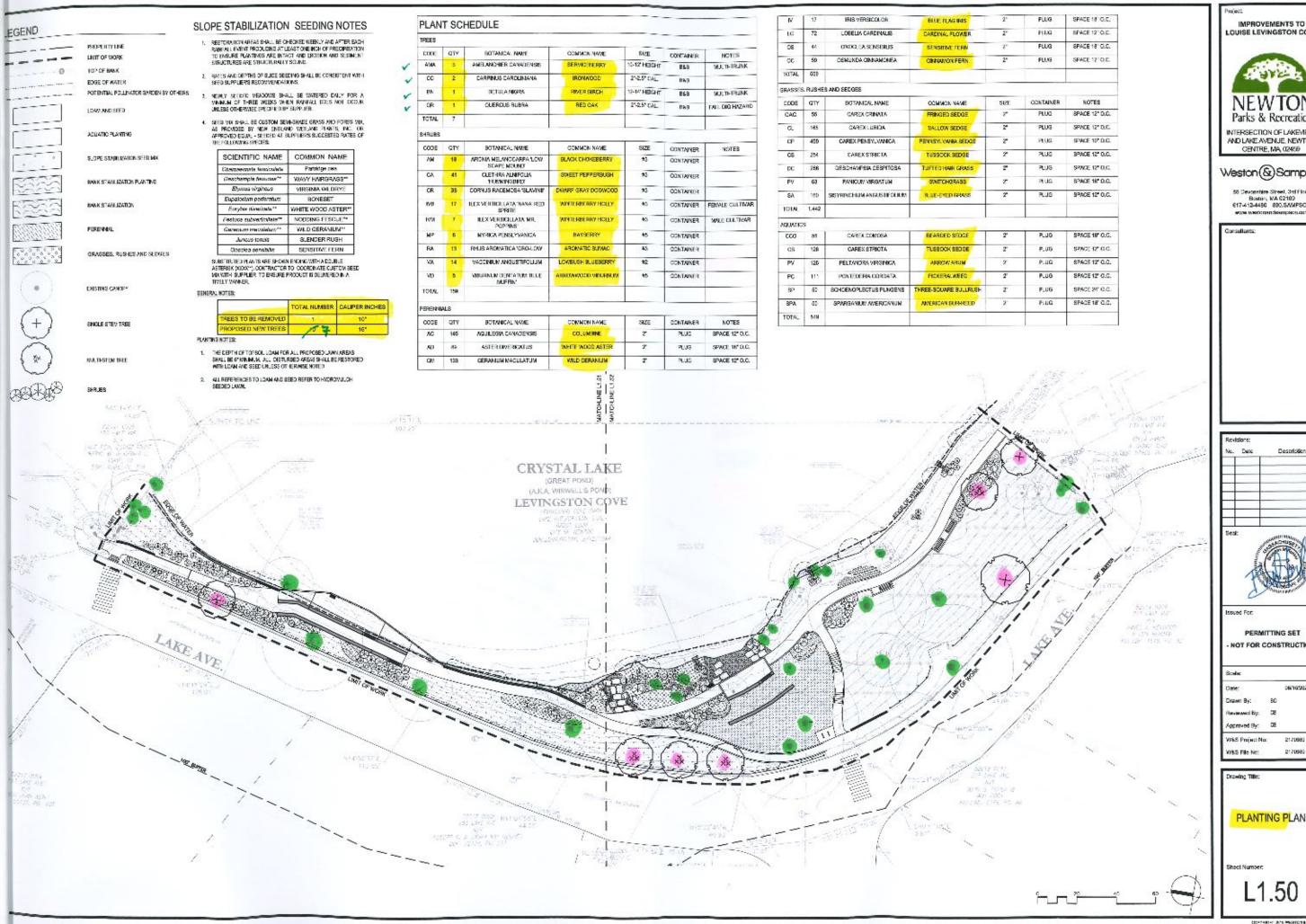
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Description PERMITTING SET NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION 06/10/2021

PLANTING PLAN

SLOPE STABILIZATION SEEDING NOTES

- RESTORATION AREAS SHALL BE CHECKED WEEKLY AND AFTER EACH RAINFALL EVENT PRODUCING AT LEAST ONE INCH OF PRECIPITATION TO ENSURE PLANTINGS ARE INTACT AND EROSION AND SEDIMENT STRUCTURES ARE STRUCTURALLY SOUND.
- RATES AND DEPTHS OF SLICE SEEDING SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH SEED SUPPLIER'S RECOMMENDATIONS.
- NEWLY SEEDED MEADOWS SHALL BE WATERED DAILY FOR A MINIMUM OF THREE WEEKS WHEN RAINFALL DOES NOT OCCUR UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED BY SUPPLIER.
- SEED MIX SHALL BE CUSTOM SEMI-SHADE GRASS AND FORBS MIX, AS PROVIDED BY NEW ENGLAND WETLAND PLANTS, INC., OR APPROVED EQUAL - SEEDED AT SUPPLIER'S SUGGESTED RATES OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
Chamaecrista fasciculata	Partridge pea
Deschampia flexuosa**	WAVY HAIRGRASS**
Elymus virgincus	VIRGINIA WILDRYE
Eupatorium perforatum	BONESET
Eurybia divaricata**	WHITE WOOD ASTER**
Festuca subverticillata**	NODDING FESCUE**
Geranium maculatum**	WILD GERANIUM**
Juncus tenuis	SLENDER RUSH
Onoclea sensibilis	SENSITIVE FERN

SUBSTITUTED PLANTS ARE SHOWN ENDING WITH A DOUBLE ASTERISK (XXXX**), CONTRACTOR TO COORDINATE CUSTOM SEED MIX WITH SUPPLIER TO ENSURE PRODUCT IS DELIVERED IN A TIMELY MANNER.

GENERAL NOTES:

	TOTAL NUMBER	CALIPER INCHES
TREES TO BE REMOVED	1	10"
PROPOSED NEW TREES	10 7	16"

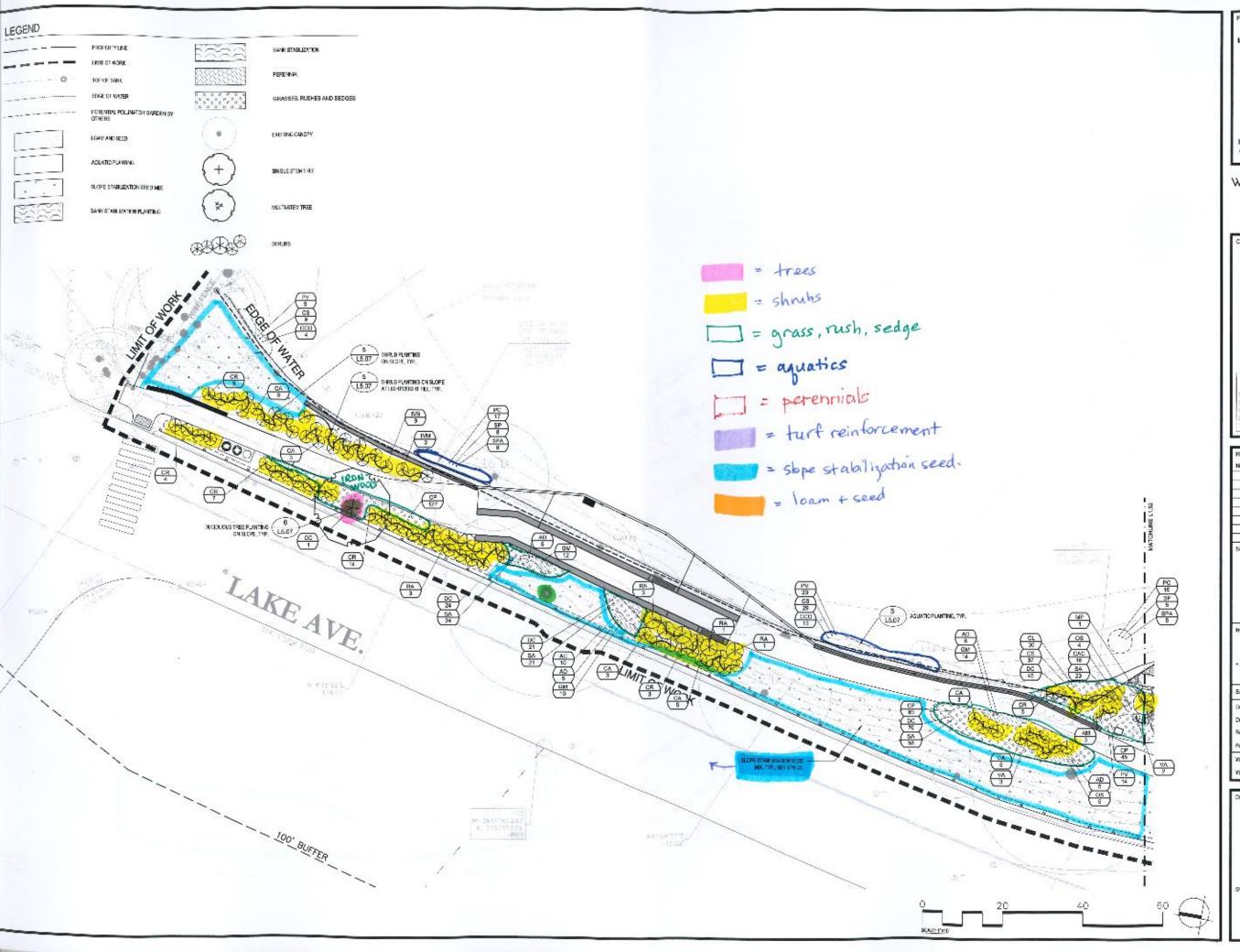
PLANTING NOTES

- THE DEPTH OF TOPSOIL LOAM FOR ALL PROPOSED LAWN AREAS SHALL BE 6* MINIMUM. ALL DISTURBED AREAS SHALL BE RESTORED WITH LOAM AND SEED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
- ALL REFERENCES TO LOAM AND SEED REFER TO HYDROMULCH SEEDED LAWN.

TREES						
CODE	QTY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	CONTAINER	NOTES
AMA	3	AMELANCHIER CANADENSIS	SERVICEBERRY	10-12' HEIGHT	B&B	MULTI-TRUNK
CC	2	CARPINUS CAROLINIANA	IRONWOOD	2"-2.5" CAL.	B&B	
BN	1	BETULA NIGRA	RIVER BIRCH	12-14' HEIGHT	B&B	MULTI-TRUNK
QR	1	QUERCUS RUBRA	RED OAK	2"-2.5" CAL.	B&B	FALL DIG HAZARI
TOTAL	7					
SHRUBS					<u> </u>	
CODE	QTY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	CONTAINER	NOTES
AM	18	ARONIA MELANOCARPA 'LOW SCAPE MOUND'	BLACK CHOKEBERRY	#3	CONTAINER	
CA	41	CLETHRA ALNIFOLIA 'HUMMINGBIRD'	SWEET PEPPERBUSH	#3	CONTAINER	
CR	38	CORNUS RACEMOSA 'SLAVINII'	DWARF GRAY DOGWOOD	#3	CONTAINER	
IVB	17	ILEX VERTICILLATA 'NANA' RED SPRITE	WINTERBERRY HOLLY	#3	CONTAINER	FEMALE CULTIVA
IVM	7	ILEX VERTICILLATA 'MR. POPPINS'	WINTERBERRY HOLLY	#3	CONTAINER	MALE CULTIVAR
MP	6	MYRICA PENSLYVANICA	BAYBERRY	#5	CONTAINER	
RA	13	RHUS AROMATICA 'GRO-LOW'	AROMATIC SUMAC	#3	CONTAINER	
VA	14	VACCINIUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM	LOWBUSH BLUEBERRY	#2	CONTAINER	
VD	5	VIBURNUM DENTATUM 'BLUE MUFFIN'	ARROWWOOD VIBURNUM	#5	CONTAINER	
TOTAL	159					
PERENN	ALS					
CODE	QTY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	CONTAINER	NOTES
AC	145	AQUILEGIA CANADENSIS	COLUMBINE	2"	PLUG	SPACE 12" O.C.
AD	89	ASTER DIVERICATUS	WHITE WOOD ASTER	2*	PLUG	SPACE 18" O.C
GM	133	GERANIUM MACULATUM	WILD GERANIUM	2*	PLUG	SPACE 12" O.C.

-				
IV	17	IRIS VERSICOLOR	BLUE FLAG IRIS	2*
LC	72	LOBELIA CARDINALIS	CARDINAL FLOWER	2*
os	44	ONOCLEA SENSIBILIS	SENSITIVE FERN	2"
OC	59	OSMUNDA CINNAMONEA	CINNAMON FERN	2*
TOTAL	559			
GRASSES	. RUSHE	S AND SEDGES		
CODE	QTY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE
CAC	55	CAREX CRINATA	FRINGED SEDGE	2*
CL	165	CAREX LURIDA	SALLOW SEDGE	2°
СР	459	CAREX PENSYLVANICA	PENNSYLVANIA SEDGE	2"
CS	254	CAREX STRICTA	TUSSOCK SEDGE	2"
DC	286	DESCHAMPSIA CESPITOSA	TUFTED HAIR GRASS	2"
PV	63	PANICUM VIRGATUM	SWITCHGRASS	2"
SA	160	SISYRINCHIUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM	BLUE-EYED GRASS	2"
TOTAL	1,442			
AQUATIC	s			
CCO	56	CAREX COMOSA	BEARDED SEDGE	2"
CS	126	CAREX STRICTA	TUSSOCK SEDGE	2"
PV	126	PELTANDRA VIRGINICA	ARROW ARUM	2"
PC	111	PONTEDERIA CORDATA	PICKERALWEED	2"
SP	50	SCHOENOPLECTUS PUNGENS	THREE-SQUARE BULLRUSH	2"
SPA	50	SPARGANIUM AMERICANUM	AMERICAN BUR-REED	2"
TOTAL	519			







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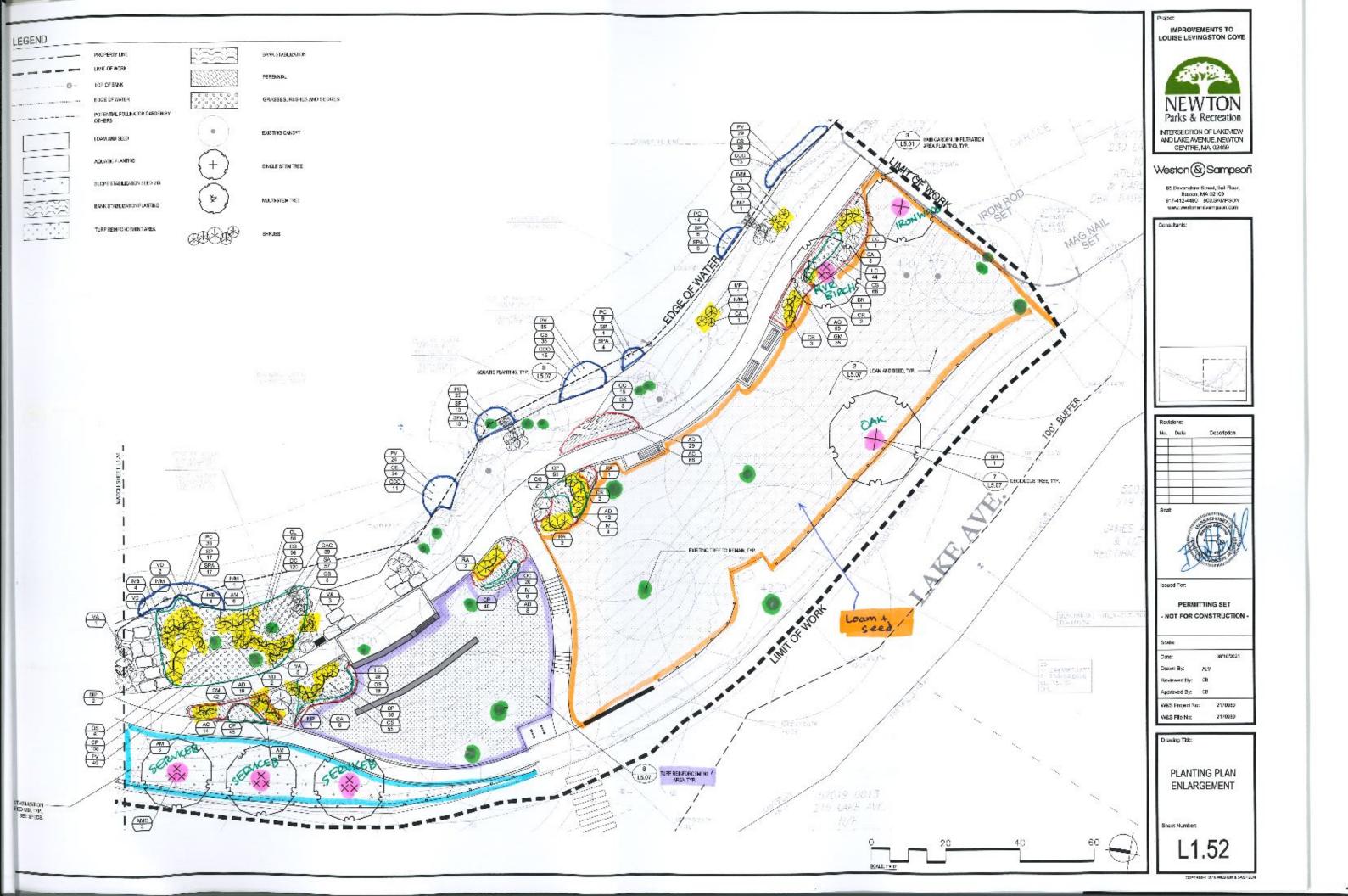
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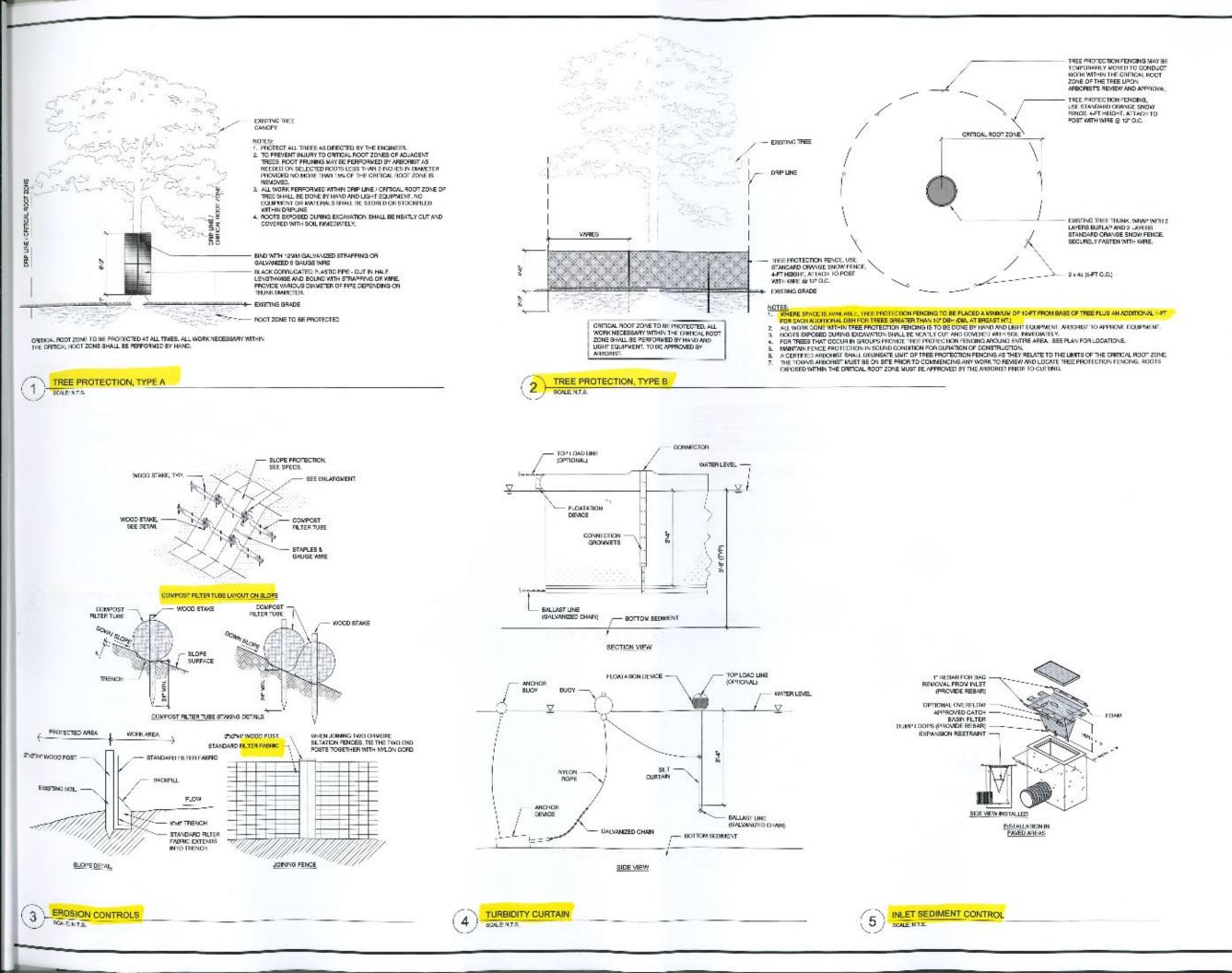


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NEWTON
Parks & Recreation
Intersection of Lakeview
AND LAKE AVENUE, NEWTON
CENTRE, MA, 02459

Weston & Sampson

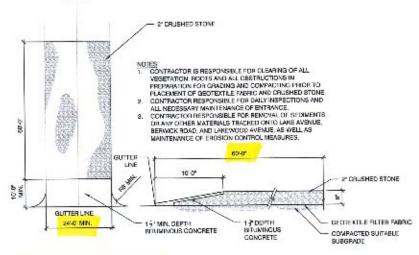
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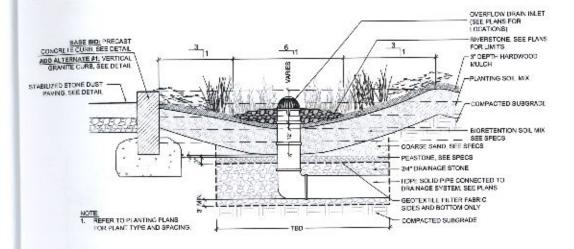




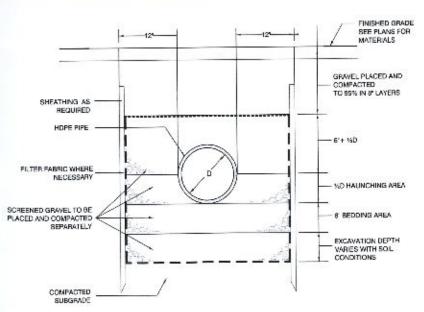
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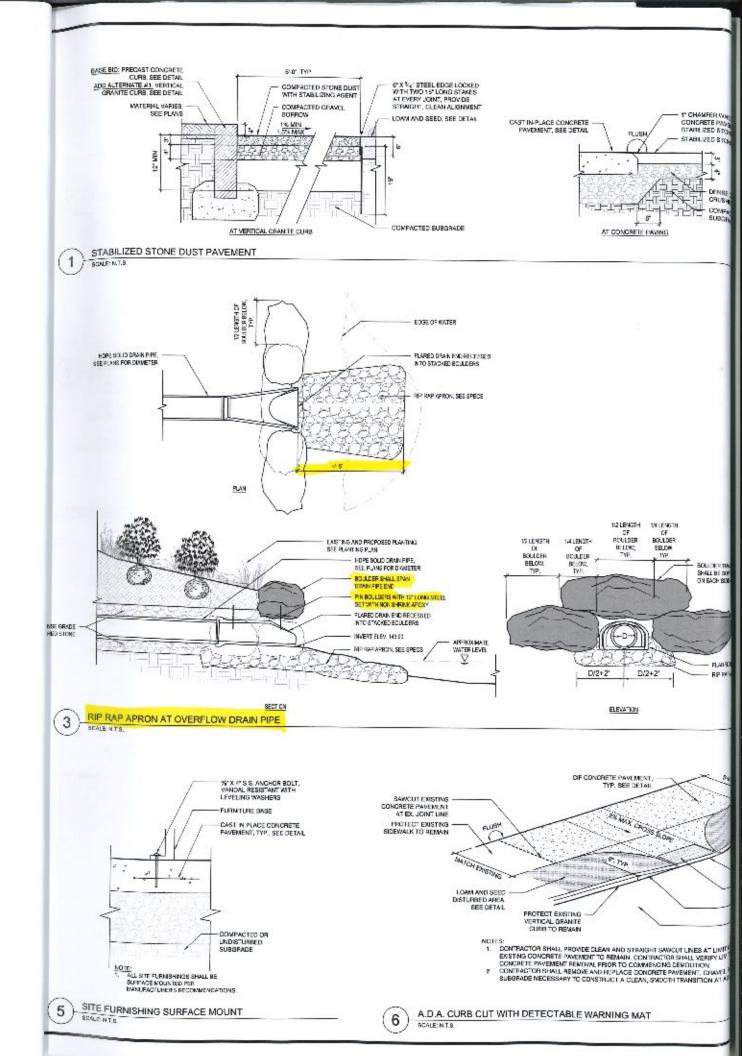
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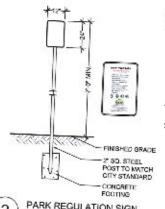


RAIN GARDEN / INFILTRATION PLANTING AREA



TRENCH DRAIN





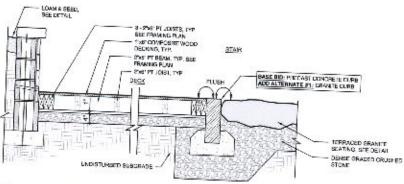
NOTE:

1. ALL SIGNS TO BE INSTALLED AS INDICATED IN THE MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES MUTCO), LATEST EDITION.

SET: AS REQUIRED STREMSTH: 10 GUAGE HOLES: 385 DIAMETER, 11 C.C FULL LENGTH STEEL SHALL CORPORN TO ASTM A-489 (GRADE 60) OR ASSIM A-576 (GRADE 1670 - 1680) FINISH: GALVANDED STHEL.

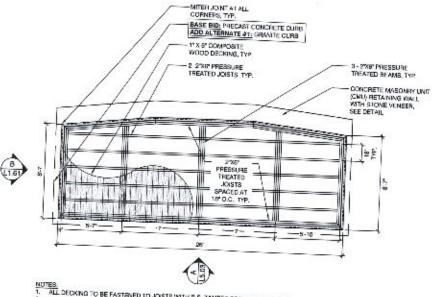
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NOTES:





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NOTES

1. ALL DECKING TO BE FASTENED TO JOISTS WITH S.S. TAMPER RESISTANT SCREWS.

2. ALL EDGES AND SURFACES SHALL BE SAMDED SMOOTH AND FREE OF ROUGH SPOTS AND SPLINTERED EDGES.

IMPROVEMENTS TO LOUISE LEVINGSTON COVE

Parks & Recreation INTERSECTION OF LAKEVIEW AND LAKE AVENUE, NEWTON CENTRE, MA, 02459

Weston & Sampson

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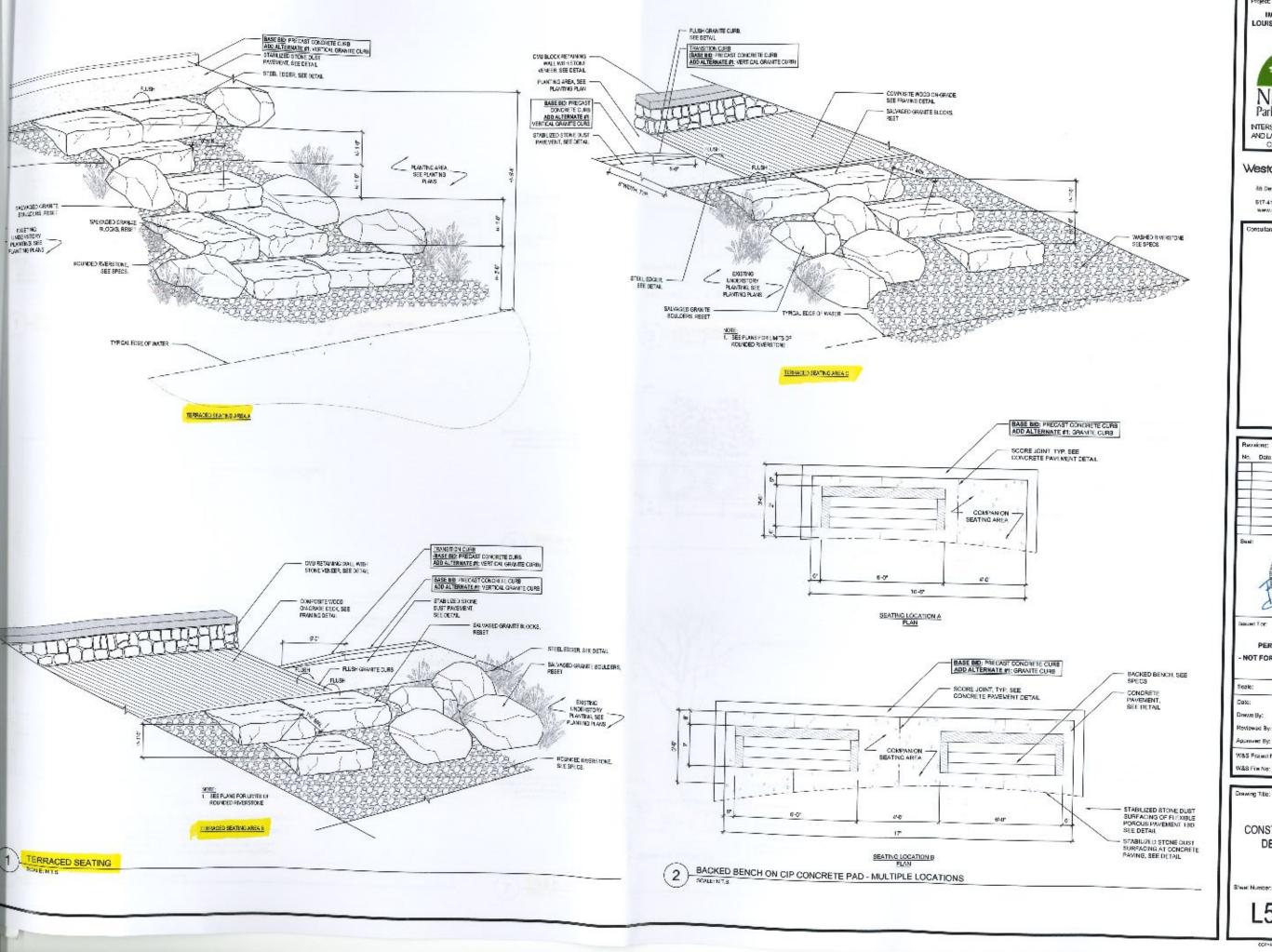
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CONSTRUCTION **DETAILS**

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NEWTON
Parks & Recreation
Intersection of Lakeview
AND LAKE AVENUE, NEWTON
CENTRE, NA, 02459

Weston & Sampson

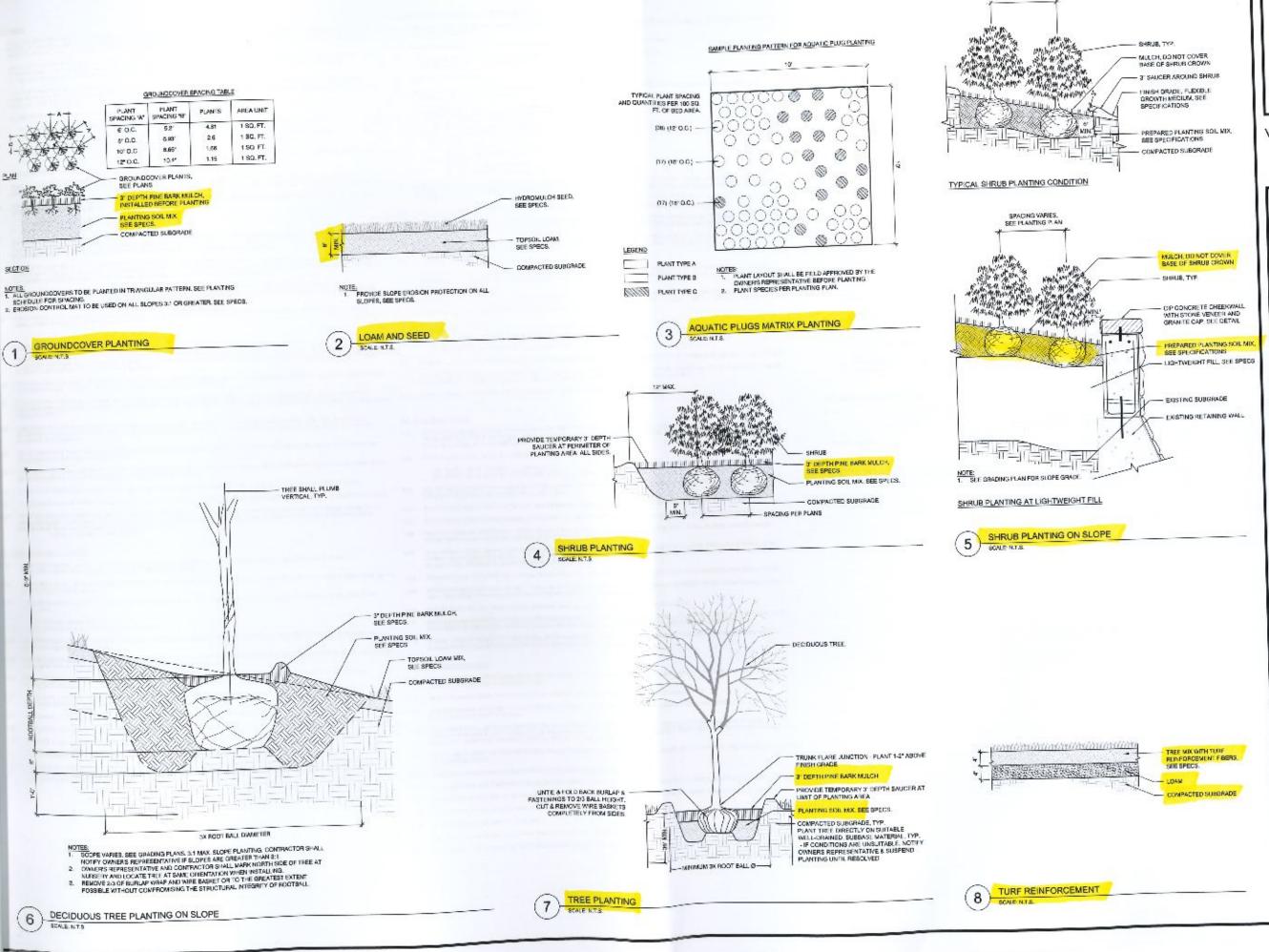
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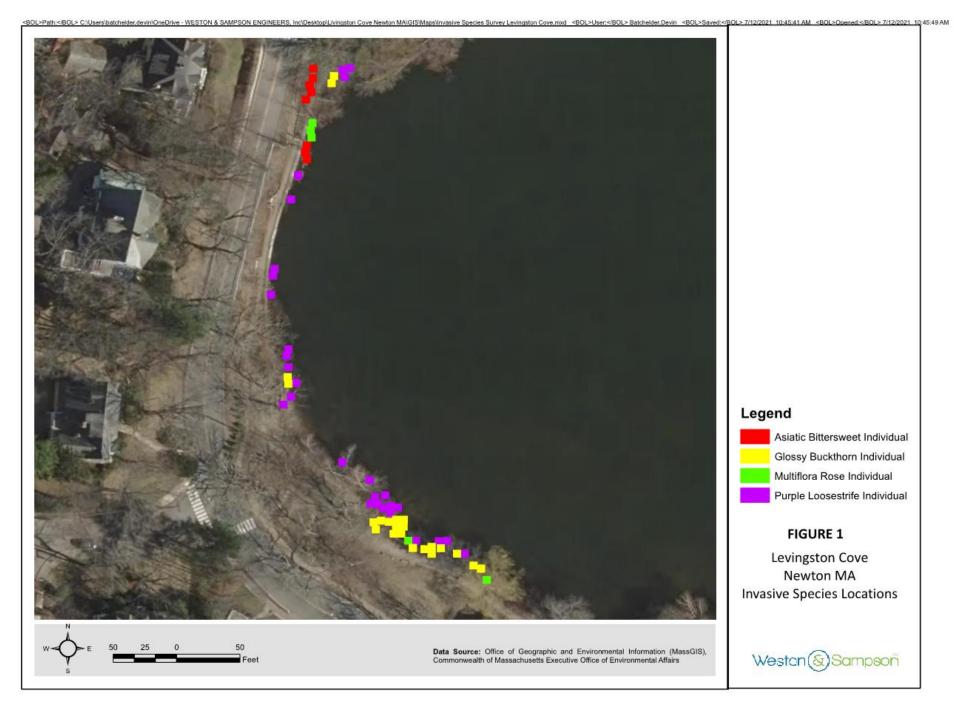
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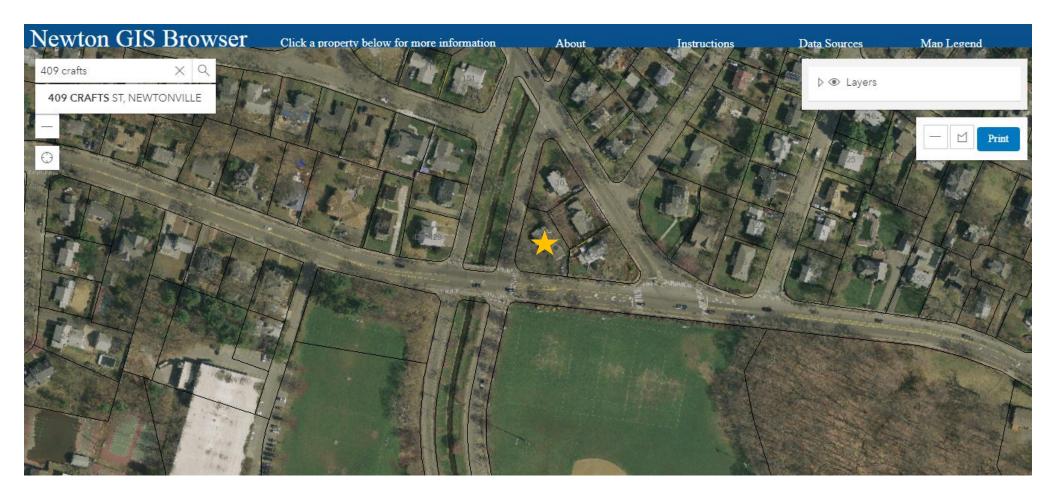


LOUISE LEVINGSTON COVE Parks & Recreation INTERSECTION OF LAKEVIEW AND LAKE AVENUE, NEWTON CENTRE, MA, 02459 Weston & Sampson 85 Devonatrine Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02109 617-412-4480 ROS SAMPSON www.westonandsampson.com Seal: PERMITTING SET NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION 08/10/2021 2170980 2170930 CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

SPACING VARIES. SEE PLANTING PLAN



409 Crafts Street Aerial

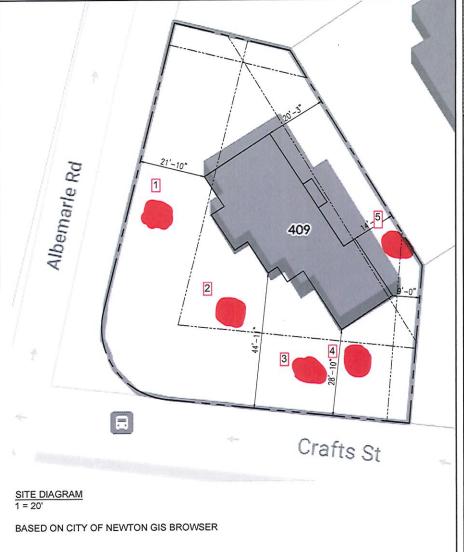


Tree Removal Plan

	ZONING DATA PER SEC. 3.1.3 - DIMENSIONAL STANDARDS (SINGLE-FAMILY DETACHED)						
	ZONING DISTRICT - SR3 RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY DETACHED (Before 12/7/1953)	ALLOWED/ REQUIRED	EXISTING	PROPOSED	COMPLIANCE		
Α	LOT AREA (MIN.)	7,000	10,215	NO CHANGE	CONFORMS		
В	LOT COVERAGE (MAX.) % (1,078 / 6,325)	30		NO CHANGE	-		
С	USEABLE OPEN SPACE (MIN.) %	50	-	NO CHANGE	CONFORMS		
D	LOT FRONTAGE (MIN.) FT	70	100	NO CHANGE	CONFORMS		
	BUILD FACTOR (MAX.)	20	10.5	NO CHANGE	CONFORMS		
E	FRONT SETBACK (MIN.) FT	25	21.8	ADDITION ()	EXISTING NON-CONFORMING (ADDITION CONFORMS)		
F	SIDE SETBACK (MIN.) FT - RIGHT	7.5	9	NO CHANGE	CONFORMS		
F	SIDE SETBACK (MIN.) FT - LEFT	7.5	NA	NO CHANGE	CONFORMS		
G	REAR SETBACK (MIN.) FT	15	14.3	ADDITION ()	EXISTING NON-CONFORMING (ADDITION CONFORMS)		
	BUILDING HEIGHT - SLOPED ROOF (MAX.) FT	36		-	CONFORMS		
Н	STORIES (MAX.)	2.5	1.5	2.5	CONFORMS		



- 1. Crimson Maple (Damaged) 20" Diameter
- 2. Locust Tree (Dead) 20" Diameter
- 3. Locust Tree (Leaning Towards House) 10" Diameter
- 4. Locust Tree (Roots Destroying Driveway) 14" Diameter
- 5. Maple Tree (Potential Hazard Overhanging House) 23" Diameter



ZONING INFORMATION Revisions: # Description 21049

409 Crafts Street Newton, MA

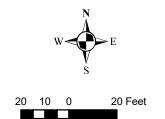
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14 Walnut Hill Rd Pond and Bridge (orange) Stream Corridor and Easement (yellow)

Newton, Mass.

Map Date: 08-19-2021



The information on this map is from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). The City of Newton cannot guarantee the accuracy of this information. Each user of this map is responsible for determining its suitability for his or her intended purpose. City departments will not necessarily approve applications based solely on GIS data.





CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS Mayor - Ruthanne Fuller GIS Administrator - Douglas Greenfield

Newton Conservation Commission Policy Apiaries on Newton Conservation Land

Approved March 11, 2021 (jms suggested edits 7-16-21) jay werb suggested edits 8-17-21

Background and Purpose

The Newton Conservation Commission must balance the sometimes-competing interests of passive activities, educational efforts, and healthy native ecosystems in its open spaces. One such balance is between maintaining healthy populations of native pollinators while allowing beekeepers to maintain a reasonable number of hives on Conservation parcels. A few honeybee hives on public land may provide ecological and educational benefits; however, a high intensity of beekeeping may crowd out native pollinators in a dense suburban context such as we have in Newton. Carefully balancing these considerations, the Conservation Commission may grant licenses to Newton residents who wish to establish honeybee hives on Conservation land. This policy provides a framework by which the Conservation Commission may evaluate such applications.

Licensing

A license for a small apiary on conservation land may be granted to a hobbyist beekeeper. A license for a larger apiary may be granted if there is a public purpose that is ecological, scientific, or educational. To facilitate planning and oversight, the Commission requires all licensed beekeepers to come before the Commission annually (usually in the summer) to give status updates and discuss their interests in for applying for license renewals.

Applicability

This policy applies to land managed by the Conservation Commission under the Conservation Commission Act (MGL Ch. 40 §8C), not to other public land or to private property.

Definitions

Apiary – a location with one or more colonies of honeybees in proximity

Beekeeper – a person who owns or has charge of one or more colonies of honeybees.

Beekeeping – the establishment and maintenance by a person or group of an apiary

Colony – an aggregate of honeybees consisting principally of workers, but having, when perfect, one queen and, seasonally, drones, brood (eggs, larva, pupae), combs, honey, and the receptable inhabited by the honeybees

Dead out – a hive in which the entire bee colony has died

Flyway – flight path of honeybees when they leave and return to the entrance of their hive.

Hive or Beehive – the man-made structure which contains one (1) colony of honeybees

Honeybee – all life stages of the domestic honeybee, Apis mellifera

Licensed Beekeeper – A Beekeeper with a license to establish an apiary on conservation land.

Nuc – abbreviation of **nucleus colony**; a partial hive used as a temporary holding area, such as when splitting a colony to prevent swarming.

Requeening – to replace the queen of a colony.

Robbing – the pilfering of honey from a weak colony by other honeybees or insects.

Super – an individual component of hive; generally, a box made of wood or plastic in which honeybees build out honeycomb frames for brood or honey storage

Swarming – natural proliferation of honeybees by the division of one colony into two or more colonies and the search of the new colony for shelter

Temporary – 90 days or less

Hobbyist Apiary

A Newton resident may wish to establish a small apiary on conservation land because their home is not a suitable venue for beekeeping. In that case, the Conservation Commission may license a hobbyist apiary on conservation land if all of the following conditions are met.

- 1. Eligibility. (1) The beekeeper is a Newton resident; (2) with at least three years of recent beekeeping experience or the beekeeper will be actively assisted by a mentor with such experience; and (3) the beekeeper does not have any other beehives in the city.
- **2. Application.** The beekeeper must submit to the Conservation Commission a complete application form indicating name, address, phone number, email, sketch plan locating the desired hive(s), and beekeeping experience, with similar information for a mentor if applicable.
- **3. Non-Transferrable License.** Permission shall be granted in the form of a license to a specific beekeeper who is responsible for the apiary, in a specific location. Neither permission nor the license are transferrable to another beekeeper or to another location. The license may be granted for three years and may be renewed at the end of the term. The Commission may revoke permission and remove an apiary from Conservation Land at any time and for any reason.
- **4. Registration and Inspection.** All Licensed Beekeepers must register their beehives with the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture and have their beehives inspected annually by submitting a request to the Massachusetts MDAR Apiary Program.

5. Apiary Location.

- a. With the application, the beekeeper shall submit a sketch plan showing the approximate location of the hive(s).
- b. The apiary location shall not be placed within 20 feet of an established trail or other public gathering spot or amenity, shall not interfere with public enjoyment of the conservation land, and shall not be placed within 300 feet of another known beehive.
- c. All hives will be located at least five feet (5') from the property line of the conservation land.

- d. If a hive is less than 20 feet (20') from developed land adjacent to the conservation parcel:
 - i. The main hive entrance must face away from the property line; and
 - ii. The beekeeper shall establish and maintain an approved flyway barrier parallel to the property line and extending ten feet (10') beyond the colony in each direction so that bees are diverted to fly at an elevation of at least six feet (6') above ground level over the property lines in the vicinity of the apiary.

6. Apiary Design.

- a. All bee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable combs.
- b. A hive, including the attached honey supers, shall not exceed twelve (12) cubic feet.
- c. Size and stability of hives shall not pose a hazard to the beekeeper or the public.
- d. Hives must be installed on sturdy stands so that the bottom board is at least 18 inches above grade.

7. Apiary Installation.

- a. The beekeeper shall meet on site with conservation staff prior to installation
- b. The apiary must be clearly and visibly labeled throughout the year stating the name of the beekeeper(s) and the best contact information. Such signage may include but is not limited to:
 - i. Information painted on the side of the hive and/or
 - ii. A small weatherproof sign atop a short post.
- c. No native vegetation or soil will be disturbed in the establishment or operation of the apiary. No permanent structure or fencing is allowed without permission.
- 8. Colony Density. The apiary shall comprise no more than two colonies at the start and end of each season. On a temporary basis, these colonies may be split in order to prevent swarming and then re-combined later in the same year. A Nuc used for splitting is considered a temporary colony. If a split results in an independently viable hive, the new hive shall count toward the total number of hives allowed on the site. The licensed apiary shall comprise no more than two hives year-round. One additional nucleus colony, not to exceed 4 cubic feet, is permitted for a period not to exceed 90 days.
- **9. Water.** When the outdoor temperature is above 50 degrees, the beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available to the honeybees so that the honeybees will not congregate at swimming pools, bibcocks, pet water bowls, birdbaths or other water sources where they may cause human, bird or domestic pet contact. The water shall be maintained so as not to become stagnant.

10. Maintenance and Best Practice Requirements.

- a. All Licensed Beekeepers must follow the must the Massachusetts Beekeepers Association Best Management Practices. The Best Management Practices can be found at: http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/agr/programs/bmp/bee-bmps.pdf.
- b. All bee colonies shall be kept in sound and usable condition.
- c. The apiary must be maintained in a clean and sanitary way that does not attract wildlife or pests.
- d. Hives shall be maintained so as to discourage robbing and swarming behaviors. The beekeeper shall ensure that no bee comb or other materials that might encourage robbing are left on the apiary site. Upon their removal from the hive, all such materials shall be promptly removed from the site and disposed of in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure.
- e. Where any colony exhibits unusually aggressive characteristics by stinging or attempting to sting without due provocation or exhibits other undesirable "colony temperament", the beekeeper shall immediately seek technical assistance in writing from the MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources Apiary Specialist and will abide by the recommendations of the Specialist, including requeening if necessary.
- f. Dead outs shall be removed expeditiously.
- g. All supers on conservation land must be actively in use in direct support of a living colony. Storage of empty supers and other equipment on conservation land is prohibited.
- **11. Education and Community Awareness.** Much of the information on the internet about beekeeping is inconsistent with best practices, incorrect, or not applicable in New England. Be part of the solution!
 - a. All beekeepers, especially new hobbyists, are encouraged to contact the Middlesex County Beekeepers Association for guidance and partnership with a local mentor. http://middlesexbeekeepers.org/
 - a. Take advantage of educational opportunities in beekeeping. The Middlesex County Beekeepers Association and Newton Community Education offer classes periodically.
 - Inform others about the rewards of beekeeping and the behavior of domesticated honeybees. Promote awareness of all pollinators by engaging with such organizations as the Newton Conservators.
- **12. Prohibitions:** The keeping by any person(s) of bee colonies on conservation land in the city, not in strict compliance with these guidelines is prohibited. Any bee colony not residing in a hive structure intended for beekeeping, or any swarm of bees, or any colony residing in a standard or homemade hive which, by virtue of its condition, has obviously been abandoned by the beekeeper, may be summarily destroyed or removed by the Conservation Commission or designee.

Apiary with a Public Purpose

A small apiary on public conservation land may provide ecological and educational benefits to the community without unduly competing with native pollinators; therefore, a two-hive hobbyist apiary on Conservation Land may be allowed as described above.

A Newton resident or group of Newton residents may wish to establish an apiary on Newton conservation land with a public purpose that is ecological, scientific, or educational. The density of such an apiary may be higher than is allowed for a hobbyist apiary, if persuasively justified by the beekeeper and licensed as such by the Commission. Location and density of the apiary will be clearly circumscribed. Such requests will be evaluated by the Conservation Commission on a case-by-case basis, and if approved, will be reviewed annually.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Date: August 5, 2021 Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86302451177

With a quorum present, the meeting opened at 7:00pm with Susan Lunin presiding as Chair. **Members Present:** Leigh Gilligan, Judy Hepburn, Ellen Katz, Kathy Cade, and Jeff Zabel.

Members Absent: Dan Green Staff Present: Claire Rundelli

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

DECISIONS

I. CONSERVATION AREA DECISIONS

- 1. (7:00) Beekeeping Update and License Approval for Old Deer Park
 - Documents Presented: Licenses for Old Deer Park and Norumbega, photos
 - o Presentation (Mark Lewis) and Discussion:
 - Mark provided an update on his current hive count maintain 4 full size hives and 1 smaller hive.
 - Classroom hives to be restocked in the next few weeks include those at Emmanuel College, Boston ..., and Mission Hill Elementary School.
 - Mark has reached out to Newton Adult Education about developing curriculum for their students that involves his hives at the Old Deer Park. He and the president of Classroom Hives are also communicating with Newton South HS about getting some hives at that location, along with the students doing some research on competition between native honeybees versus European honeybees.
 - Mark has also been reaching out to experts in the field, including Dr. Geagar, regarding the issue of competition.
 - One Commissioner suggested moving the hives at the Old Deer Park to the Newton Community Farm, where there may be less of an issue with competition. Another Commissioner countered that they believe there are already established hives at the Community Farm. The current Commission liaison with the Farm Commission could not confirm.
 - Concerns were raised about bees at the Old Deer Park proving to be a safety issue once the park opens. Staff stated that they have had no issues with the bees in their numerous visits to this parcel.
 - Commissioners asked if Mark had plans to do any pollen collection or DNA analysis to
 provide further detail about where his bees are collecting from. Mark confirmed that he
 is doing honey analysis to provide further detail.
 - It was requested that Mark ensure all hives are appropriately raised 18" off the ground to ensure no issues with local wildlife. Mark confirmed that he would ensure this is the case with his hives.
 - Mark noted that he had forwarded sign language to staff for approval prior to installing.
 Staff had not received (issues between google docs and Outlook), but upon reviewing the language during the meeting both Commissioners and staff felt the language was appropriate.
 - Staff noted one requested edit to the license language regarding the timeline for removal
 of infrastructure upon termination of the license from 7 days to 21 says. Mark stated he
 has no issue with this change.
 - Staff informed the Commission that the Ohorilkos could not attend tonight due to some
 health issues, but that it is the understanding of staff that the hives at Norumbega will be
 removed prior to the expiration of the license currently before the Commission and will
 not be coming back for a renewal.



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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Votes: To sign the 1-year licenses for the Old Deer Park, as edited, and Norumbega. [Motion (Deer Park): Leigh Gilligan; Second: Kathy Cade; Roll-call vote: Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye), Zabel (aye), Lunin (aye); Vote 6:0:0] [Motion (Norumbega): Kathy Cade; Second: Jeff Zabel; Roll-call vote: Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (abstain), Zabel (aye), Lunin (aye); Vote 5:0:1]

II. WETLANDS DECISIONS

2. (7:15) 160 Pine Street - cont'd NOI - retaining wall replacement - DEP File #239-898

- Owner/Applicant: David Altman, Advantage Property Management Representative: Eric DeNardo, Environmental Strategies and Management, Inc.
- Request: Issue an OOC.
- o <u>Documents Presented</u>: Colored plans, seed mix detail, site photos, draft OOC
- o Jurisdiction: Buffer Zone, City Floodplain
- Project Summary
 - Replace an existing, failing wooden retaining wall with a Redi-Rock retaining wall (roughly 41 inches thick). The wall will be 4' high for roughly 24' feet and 7' high for roughly 57'.
 - Erosion controls are proposed between the wall and the stream, along with additional tree protection for the twin black locust.

o Presentation (Eric Denardo) and Discussion

- Provided a summary of the revisions done to the plans in response to staff comments including:
 - provided topography, details regarding the wall removal process, erosion controls, and stockpiling locations;
 - provided seed mix specifications (New England Wetland Plants Wetland Seed Mix); and
 - o removed the note about catch-basin protection since there are no catch-basins in the vicinity.
- The applicant's representative stated that they did update the topography pulled from the Newton GIS to match with spot grades taken on site.
- Commissioners asked if staff proposed any alternatives to the seed mix to restore areas between the stream and the wall, but because of the heavy canopy and root mass, staff feel that the seed mix is the appropriate choice and though the survival of it shouldn't be conditioned.
- Vote: To close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions with the following special conditions. [Motion: Leigh Gilligan; Second: Susan Lunin; Roll-call vote: Green (aye), Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye), Zabel (aye), Lunin (aye); Vote 6:0:0]
 - Once a contractor is selected, a construction management plan designed to limit and control any adverse on the wetlands resource area(s) must be presented to the Conservation Commission for review and approval. At a minimum, it must address the following: staging for construction materials and equipment, site stability/erosion and siltation control, parking for construction workers' vehicles, phasing of the project with anticipated completion dates and milestones, emergency contact personnel of the general contractor.
 - The applicant must schedule and attend a pre-construction site visit with the applicant, construction supervisor and Conservation agent.
 - Prohibitions include:
 - a. Damage to mature vegetation along the stream (as documented in pre-construction photos).
 - b. Litter left in the buffer zone or wetland.
 - If any trees within the wetland or buffer within the project area die within 2 years of the start of construction or have been demonstrably harmed by construction activities, they shall be replaced at a ratio of 2:1 with native canopy saplings (of roughly 2 caliper inches). Location of replacement saplings must be reviewed and approved by staff prior to planting.

3. (7:35) Charles River Lower Basin - NOI (cont'd) - vegetation management - DEP File #239-900

- Owner/Applicant: Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation Representative: Keith Gazaille, SOLitude
- o Request: Issue an OOC.
- o <u>Documents Presented</u>: Plans, site photos, draft OOC
- o Jurisdiction: BVW, Bank, LUWW
- Project Summary

- Management of invasive species within the Charles River through herbicide (Sonar/fluridone and ProcellaCOR EC herbicide (florpyrauxifen-benzyl) along with hand-pulling of water chestnuts
- Conditional use of algaecides for the management of cyanobacteria, if necessary, in the event of a health hazard, if/as necessary following Commission review and approval.
- Conditional use of other herbicides if/as necessary following Commission review and approval.
- Presentation (Keith Gazaille and Anne Carroll (DCR)) and Discussion
 - A DEP file number has been received.
 - After a call with staff to discuss the "New Staff Comments," the applicant did submit a revised narrative addressing all staff concerns.
 - The applicant's representative ran through the additional edits that were submitted on 8/4/21.
 - The Commission must determine whether it should permit this as a Limited Project (does it qualify as "ecological restoration" and does it need to have performance standards "waived") or can it be permitted under Land Under Wetlands and Waterbodies (since it seems to meet the performance standards).
 - DCR and SOLitude believe that this project does qualify as an ecological limited project and have filed under and received Ecological Restoration Orders for all other similar filings. DEP actually uphold that a similar project under appeal did qualify as ecological restoration.
 - Will there be hand-pulling of water chestnuts in Phase I? Water chestnuts are not shown on the Newton map or calendar.
 - Hand removal of water chestnut is to occur as plants are spotted. Based on 2019 surveys and reports from other parties, DCR/SOLitude does not expect more than a few hundred plants to be removed each season.
 - No water quality monitoring information was given in the new narrative, so the Commission may be left to condition this.
 - DMF requires monitoring for the project should work occur outside of the time of year restrictions, that will require data on dissolved oxygen levels, pH, temperature, and turbidity. DCR/SOLitude has no issues with these requirements.
 - No information on project monitoring or verification was provided in the revised narrative, so the Commission may be left to condition this.
 - SOLitude stated that DCR is committed to spot checking any pre-treatment and post-treatment survey. DCR will also conduct site inspections periodically, along with checking in with other stakeholders who perform regular visits to the River (e.g., CRWA).
 - No information on a pre-treatment survey report (to be provided to the Commission) was given in the new narrative, so the Commission may be left to condition this.
 - The project team apologized for not being clear enough on their commitment to provide the pretreatment survey. DCR/SOLitude is committed to submitting this information prior to the end of June each year.
 - No information on how ProcellaCOR will be applied was given in the new narrative, so the Commission may be left to condition this.
 - SOLitude clarified that ProcellaCOR will be applied through subsurface injection, with treatment area, which are determined by the pre-treatment survey, polygons being loaded into a GPS unit which will communicate with the injection technology to dose the prescribed polygon.
 - Since a land-based long-term remote set-up for Sonar application has not been discussed with the Commission and is not detailed in the revised narrative, it should not be permitted under this Order.
 - SOLitude agrees that this is not planned, and this potential treatment method is retracted.
 - Water chestnuts were shown in the potential treatment area map of Newton and off-loading sites weren't identified, so off-loading and dewatering should not be permitted in Newton.
 - As stated above, no dewatering or disposal is planned in Newton. All plants pulled will be pulled
 onto the boat being used and immediately trucked to an upload disposal site.
 - No details of a year-end report were provided in the revised narrative, so the Commission may be left to condition this.
 - The project team clarified that they will be doing a post-treatment survey and developing a year end report which will be submitted to the Commission prior to Dec. 31st of each year.

- Commissioner's asked what the stance of other communities involved in the project is on the issue of DCR standing
 in as project monitor. Staff clarified that Watertown staff have stated that their Commission is not overly
 concerned, but that Boston staff do have some potential concerns about DCR serving as the project monitor.
 Cambridge staff could not attend the call, so it is unclear what their stance on this issue is. Newton staff stated that
 the size of the area being treated is within reason for DCR staff to inspect, but that they understand the concerns
 about potential conflict of interest.
- Staff stated that should the Commission vote to close the hearing tonight,
- Commissioners asked what the Charles River Watershed Association thought about the issue of monitoring. Lisa Krumpf (CRWA) was on the call and stated that she agreed that monitoring in the Watertown and Newton portions is much less of a burden and that DCR would have the expertise to monitor these sections. Her only concern would be about the time and resources needed to inspect/monitor the Cambridge and Boston sections. DCR staff stated that their staff are incredibly well trained in identifying these species and that it is their mission to prevent the spread of aquatic invasives. DCR has never been asked to hire a 3rd party monitor on similar past projects, but it is their strong preference to not set the precedence to hire a 3rd party, which would add time and cost burden to the project.
- One Commissioner stated that while they understand the potential for a conflict of interest, they do feel that DCR serving as the monitor rolls into the agency's mission statement of protecting the recreational resources of the state. They are accountable to citizens of the commonwealth and to our Commission to be doing this kind of thing right. Another Commissioner stated that we should simply fall in line with Boston's preference for the project.
- DCR staff asked for clarification on what the concern is regarding DCR serving as monitor. Is it that DCR will miss a section of invasives, or that DCR will label an area incorrectly as invasive? Staff stated that their understanding of the concern is that there may be "overtreatment" of the area.
- Commissioners asked if any of the work done by SOLitude subcontracts any of this work? SOLitude stated that they do occasionally subcontract work. Commissioners stated that would be their concern, a miscommunication between parties that resulted in an inaccurate does of herbicides. SOLitude clarified that while they sub out some portions of work, they do not ever sub out the application portion of the contract. DCR and SOLitude clarified that the budget for herbicide is set by the areas determined to need treatment in the pre-treatment survey, so SOLitude would be paying out of pocket for increased use of herbicides beyond that.
- Commissioners asked what intervals inspections would be occurring. DCR staff stated that they go out and do regular spot checks after vegetation surveys.
- Commissioners stated that while there is an opportunity for maleficence with any contract scenario, but they are confident in DCR monitoring the project, especially a project that is so needed. They stated that it must be clear what the Commission's concerns are regarding the monitoring, to ensure that it is outlined in the conditions why we are requiring whatever is determined to be the best solution.
- Staff clarified for the Commissioners the area that is being treated in Newton, and confirmed that no treatment is proposed west of the Watertown Dam.
- Staff ran through the proposed conditions with the Commission and the project team stated their acceptance of all
 listed special conditions. Staff did note that this language would be forwarded to the staff for the other
 Commissions involved in this project, to ensure there was similar language in their OOCs.
- Vote: To close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions with the following special conditions. Final special condition language will be reviewed by the other communities affected by this project (Boston, Cambridge, and Watertown), and may be edited prior to the final issuance of the Order of Conditions. [Motion: Leigh Gilligan; Second: Susan Lunin; Roll-call vote: Green (aye), Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye), Zabel (aye), Lunin (aye); Vote 6:0:0]



4. (8:15) 32 Placid Road – NOI – single-family home addition and new deck – DEP File #239-899

- o Owner/Applicant: Norma Garcia Representative: Timothy McGuire, Goddard Consulting, LLC
- o Request: Issue an OOC.
- o Documents Presented: Colored plans, site photos, draft OOC
- o <u>Jurisdiction</u>: BLSF, City Floodplain
- Project Summary
 - Demolish existing porch on the side of the house.

- Construct a single-story addition and new deck in the location of the porch to be removed.
- No tree removal is proposed.
- The project would result in 27.71 cubic feet of fill being brought on site and proposes to create 67.58 cubic feet of compensatory flood storage by providing a cut at the 118' elevation.

o Presentation (Tim McGuire) and Discussion:

- The applicant's representative provided a summary of the proposed work and the additional clarifications provided to staff after receiving the staff comments. They are amenable to additional plantings and the proposed lattice (photo provided) does meet the enclosure guidelines.
- The project is creating a generous excess of compensatory storage.
- Commissioners asked for clarification on the increase in impervious area. Staff clarified that there is an increase in
 impervious area proposed, but because the only jurisdiction is BLSF, there are no requirements for mitigation for
 impervious area increase and that the 10 shrubs proposed by staff should be appropriate mitigation for the wildlife
 habitat performance standard.
- Vote: To close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions with the following special conditions. [Motion: Leigh Gilligan; Second: Susan Lunin; Roll-call vote: Green (aye), Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye), Zabel (aye), Lunin (aye); Vote 6:0:0]
 - The applicant must schedule and attend a pre-construction site visit with the applicant, construction supervisor and Conservation agent
 - Additional required plantings within Commission jurisdiction must:
 - a. Stabilize all disturbed areas.
 - b. Be installed in an area equal to the "exist plants" shown on the plans or ~288 s.f. and consist roughly 10 shrubs. Should any species differ from those listed below, they must be reviewed and approved by the Conservation office prior to installation.
 - c. Be comprised of a mix Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle (Diervilla Ionicera), Sweet Pepperbush (Clethra alnifolia), and American holly (Ilex opaca).
 - d. Have a survival rate of 100% of total number of shrubs (after 2 growing seasons).
 - e. Mulch applications shall diminish over time and eventually cease as shrubs spread.
 - Compensatory flood storage must be provided in its entirety as per the plans, through grading cuts at the 118'
 counter line, under the proposed addition and deck. Any soil removed from the site must be disposed of properly
 off-site.
 - The required planting shall be maintained in perpetuity in their predominantly natural condition.
 - To maintain the flood storage capacity of the site, and to uphold DEP requirements for "unrestricted hydraulic connection", there shall be no enclosure of the structure other than the minimal skirting allowed under the Conservation Commission's guidelines for Construction in Flood Zone (approved 10/8/20).

(8:35) 96 Lake Avenue – teardown/rebuild single-family home – DEP File #239-XXX

- o <u>Owner/Applicant</u>: Tamar and Philip Warburg <u>Representative</u>: Dana Altobello, Merrill Engineers and Land Surveyors
- o Request: Issue an OOC.
- o <u>Documents Presented</u>: Colored plans, site photos, draft OOC
- o Jurisdiction: Buffer Zone, City Floodplain
- Project Summary
 - Note: much of the site work is outside Commission jurisdiction.
 - Demolish existing single-family home, including driveway and rear patio.
 - Construct new single-family home with permeable paver driveway, concrete patio, paver patio, and stormwater systems. A very small increase in impervious area within the 100-foot buffer is proposed.
 - Replace back yard stone stair edging to provide safety.
 - Undertake repairs to stabilize the retaining wall that defines the bank of Crystal Lake
 - Removal of invasive shrubs is proposed. No trees are proposed to be removed within Commission jurisdiction.
 - Mitigation plantings are proposed close to the Lake and include 57 native shrubs and herbaceous plants.
- Presentation (Dana Altobello) and Discussion
 - At the time of this meeting a DEP File number has not been issued and the hearing cannot be closed.

- The owner (Tamar Warburg) and project representative provided a summary of the proposed work and their intention to keep the site as natural as possible.
- Tamar clarified that there are existing plastic pavers below the moss in the rear yard in a number of locations, which they plan to excavate. This is why the proposed patio near the pond edge was marked as "restore."
- The applicant did provide stabilization specifications for the proposed swale, including a seed mix detail and erosion control blanket specs, should the seed have trouble.
- Commissioners asked for clarification on the proposed versus existing impervious area on the site within
 jurisdiction. Staff and the project team clarified that there is very little proposed new impervious area within
 jurisdiction. The pink area colored on the plan is meant to show the proposed transition between open area with
 walkway to house.
- The project is within a historic jurisdiction and is going back before the Historic Commission later in August to get approval for the proposed design.
- Vote: Vote to continue the hearing to 8/26/21 to allow for the issuance of a DEP File number. [Motion: Ellen Katz;
 Second: Jeff Zabel; Roll-call vote: Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye), Zabel (aye), Lunin (aye); Vote 6:0:0]

(9:00) 64 Selwyn Road – COC Request – addition to SFH – DEP #239-792

- Owner: Shachar Rabbe Representative: none
- Request: Issue COC.
- o Documents Presented: none
- <u>Discussion</u>: All required COC materials have been received and a site visit on 7/19/21 confirmed the site is in substantial compliance.
- Vote: To issue a Certificate of Compliance. [Motion: Kathy Cade; Second: Judy Hepburn; Roll-call vote: Hepburn (aye),
 Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye), Zabel (aye), Lunin (aye); Vote 6:0:0]

7. (9:05) 144 Upland Avenue - COC Request - new deck - DEP #239-480

- o Owner: Marc Abend Representative: none
- Request: Issue COC.
- Documents Presented: none
- <u>Discussion</u>: All required COC materials have been received and a site visit on 7/21/21 confirmed the site is in substantial compliance.
- Vote: To issue a Certificate of Compliance. [Motion: Leigh Gilligan; Second: Jeff Zabel; Roll-call vote: Hepburn (aye),
 Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye), Zabel (aye), Lunin (aye); Vote 6:0:0]

8. (9:10) 20 Rogers Street (Crystal Lake) - COC Request - Left Beach restoration work - DEP #239-897

- Owner: City of Newton Representative: Luis Perez Demorizi, Parks, Recreation and Culture
- o Request: Issue COC.
- o <u>Documents Presented</u>: none
- Presentation: All required COC materials have been received and a site visit on 7/28/21 confirmed the site is in substantial compliance. [Motion: Leigh Gilligan; Second: Judy Hepburn; Roll-call vote: Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye), Zabel (aye), Lunin (aye); Vote 6:0:0]
- Staff Recommendations: Vote to issue a Certificate of Compliance.

II. CONSERVATION AREA DECISIONS - None at this time.

III. ADMNISTRATIVE DECISIONS

9. (9:20) Minutes of 7/15/21 to be approved

- o <u>Documents Presented</u>: Draft 7/15/21 minutes
- Vote: To accept the 7/15/21 minutes as edited. [Motion: Ellen Katz; Second: Jeff Zabel; Roll-call vote: Hepburn (aye),
 Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye), Zabel (aye), Lunin (aye); Vote 6:0:0]

IV. ISSUES AROUND TOWN DECISIONS - None at this time.

UPDATES

V. WETLANDS UPDATES

10 Gambier: Knotweed management is going well!

VI. CONSERVATION AREA UPDATES

- o Riverwalk bike rack: No word from the Eagle Scout who had been interested in installing a bike rack.
- 628 Boylston St: A historic encroachment was discovered onto Oakdale Woods Conservation Area. Staff are working with
 the homeowner to restore the encroachment area and roughly mark the property line. Commissioners suggested
 Comptonia if additional plantings are needed.

VII. ISSUES AROUND TOWN UPDATES

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

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

ADJOURN at 9:00pm [Motion: Ellen Katz; Second: Kathy Cade; Roll-call vote: Hepburn (aye), Cade (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye), Zabel (aye), Lunin (aye); Vote 6:0:0]