

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022

Time: 7:00pm

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

With a quorum present, the meeting opened at 7:00 pm with Susan Lunin presiding as Chair.

Members Present: Susan Lunin (Vice-Chair), Leigh Gilligan, Kathy Cade, Jeff Zabel, Ellen Katz, Judy Hepburn (left at 8:25) and Associate Member Sonya McKnight (present for part of the meeting)

Members Absent: Dan Green (Chair)

Staff present: Jennifer Steel, Ellen Menounos

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

DECISIONS

A. WETLANDS DECISIONS

1. 17 Brandeis Rd – NOI (cont'd) – SFH demo and rebuild, plus site features – DEP #239-917

- Owner/Applicant. Sameh Kanan
- Representative. John P Rockwood, Eco-Tec
- Request. Issue OOC.
- Documents in packets. Colored site plans, planting plan
- Additional documents presented at meeting. Site photos
- Jurisdiction. BLSF, City Floodplain, BZ to BVW
- Project Summary. Single family home will be torn down. Fences will be removed. Two mature trees will be removed. New single-family home will be constructed, half of it on piers to allow flood waters to flow underneath. Associated site features, including driveway, decks, patio and hot tub will be constructed.
- Presentation and Discussion.
 - Applicants addressed all staff and Commission's remaining concerns in revised plans
 - Eliminated the hot tub;
 - Relocated the patio to the south so it will be completely outside the 25' Buffer Zone;
 - The 25' Buffer Zone west of the Enhancement Planting Area, in the area where the patio and hot tub were originally proposed, is proposed to be lawn;
 - The mature hemlock will be cut, but a 6" caliper white spruce has been added in the front yard;
 - The proposed impervious area has been reduced from 3,479 sf to 3,426 sf;
 - The net gain of flood storage on the site has increased from 4,878 cf to 4,918 cf;
 - The Enhancement Planting Area has larger saplings to address the Tree Warden's planting requirements and the saplings have been moved to remove the white spruce from the easement and move the red oak away from the existing off-site tree.
 - Vote. Close the hearing and issue an OOC. [Motion: Cade; Second: Gilligan; Roll-call vote: Lunin (aye), Gilligan (aye), Katz (aye), Cade (aye), Zabel (aye), Hepburn (aye); Vote: 6:0:0]
 - No fence has been proposed and no fence is hereby approved under this order.
 - The portions of the house and decks built on pilings shall not be enclosed in violation of the Conservation Commission's policy with lattice, screen, lath or covering of any sort that covers more than 50% of the area of any opening, and/or has openings/holes with any dimension less than 1 inch.
 - 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)
 - Be bounded, as shown on the plans, with bounds that are 1" iron pipes or 4"x4"x36" stone or concrete posts with instructive language regarding protection and with at least 6" above grade.
 - 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)
 - Mulch applications, shall diminish over time and eventually cease as shrubs spread.



Mayor
Ruthanne Fuller

**Director
Planning &
Development**
Barney Heath

**Chief
Environmental
Planner**
Jennifer Steel

**Assistant
Environmental
Planner**
Ellen Menounos

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

**Associate
Member**
Sonya McKnight

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- Mowing, dumping, storage of materials, and structures in the enhancement planting area are prohibited.
- If any trees intended to be protected close to the project area die within 2 years of the start of construction as a result of the 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).
- Compensatory flood storage must be provided in its entirety as per the approved grading plans.
- No Certificate of Occupancy shall be approved by Conservation unless a Certificate of Compliance has been issued or the request receives the written approval of the Chief Environmental Planner.
- To protect wetlands and native plants, herbicides shall be applied only to poisonous or noxious plants or to the invasive plants identified in this Order. Herbicides shall be applied (by licensed applicator) in accordance with label instructions.
- To protect the full suite of benefits of area wildlife, and native insects and pollinators, pesticides shall only be employed to address invasive pests (such as woolly adelgid) that threaten the health of native plants. Pesticides shall be applied in accordance with labeled instructions and in a targeted manner.
- To protect the water quality of area wetlands, fertilizers shall not be applied within 25 feet of wetlands and only in moderation beyond that.
- To protect wetland wildlife, exterior lighting shall:
 - be “dark sky” compliant -- i.e., shielded to prevent any “up lighting” and “backlighting”, focused, and directed so as to not illuminate any part of the wetland.
 - have limited blue content to decrease skyglow and disruption of animal behavior
 - be switched off when not in active use
- To maintain the flood storage capacity of the site and to ensure that flood waters can flow freely under the permitted structure, the area(s) under the permitted structure(s) shall not be enclosed with lattice, screen, lath or covering of any sort that covers more than 50% of the area of any opening, and/or has openings/holes with any dimension less than 1”.

2. 24 Williams St – NOI – Single family home addition – DEP #239-918

- Owner/Applicant. Rue Miel, LLC
- Representative. Ellen Katz
- Request. Issue OOC.
- Documents in packets. Aerial photo, colored site plans
- Additional documents presented at meeting. Site photos
- Jurisdiction. Riverfront Area
- Project Summary. 165 sf addition will be constructed, shed will be removed, asphalt driveway will be replaced with pervious paver driveway, arborvitae hedge will be removed, native landscape plantings will be installed.
- Presentation and Discussion.
 - As the project representative, Ellen Katz recused herself from this discussion item.
 - All work is in outer riparian area
 - Project is to modify home from a 2-bedroom to a 3-bedroom. It will result in a small net increase in impervious area
 - Pervious paver driveway will increase infiltration on site
 - Native planting plan is under development and will include a native pollinator garden in the front yard
- Vote. Close the hearing and issue an OOC with the following special conditions. [Motion: Zabel; Second: Cade; Roll-call vote: Lunin (aye), Gilligan (aye), Cade (aye), Zabel (aye), Hepburn (aye); Vote: 5:0:0]
 - The driveway shall be converted to pervious pavers.
 - A mitigation and/or restoration planting plan, designed and maintained to replicate to the maximum extent practical a diverse ecological system, provide habitat for native species, and keep invasive species in check, must be presented to the Conservation Office for review and approval and must:
 - Include 1 native understory tree, if the Carolina fringetree does not survive the construction
 - Include 4 native shrubs
 - Include native spreading herbaceous/groundcover plants as “green mulch”
 - 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 the 1 tree (after 2 growing seasons)
 - Have a survival rate of 100 % of the 4 shrubs (after 2 growing seasons)
 - Have complete coverage by the other herbaceous plants (after 2 growing seasons)

- If any trees intended to be protected within the project area die within 2 years of the start of construction as a result of the 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).
- To protect wetlands and native plants, herbicides shall be applied only to poisonous or noxious plants or to the invasive plants identified in this Order. Herbicides shall be applied (by licensed applicator) in accordance with label instructions.
- To protect the full suite of benefits of area wildlife, and native insects and pollinators, pesticides shall only be employed to address invasive pests (such as woolly adelgids) that threaten the health of native plants. Pesticides shall be applied in accordance with labeled instructions and in a targeted manner.
- To protect the water quality of area wetlands, fertilizers shall not be applied within 25 feet of wetlands, and only in moderation beyond that.
- To protect wetland wildlife, exterior lighting shall:
 - be “dark sky” compliant -- i.e., shielded to prevent any “up lighting” and “backlighting”, focused, and directed so as to not illuminate any part of the wetland.
 - have limited blue content to decrease skyglow and disruption of animal behavior.
 - be switched off when not in active use.

3. 152 Suffolk Rd – NOI cont’d – backyard pool, sports court, and patio – DEP #239-911

- Owner/Applicant. Yelena Dudochkin (not present)
- Representative. Mark Arnold, Goddard Consulting; Marc Mazzarelli, Landscape Architect
- Request. Issue OOC.
- Documents in packets. colored plan sheets (revised 4-11-22 and 4-7-22)
- Additional documents presented at meeting. Site photos
- Jurisdiction. Riverfront Area, BVW, Buffer Zone
- Project Summary.
 - Within RFA: construct a 20’x40’ swimming pool, patio, retaining wall, 6’ metal and cedar post fence, and plantings. Total new impacts to the outer riparian zone will total ± 1,281 sf.
 - Within BZ to BVW: construct a 30’x60’ sports court with retaining walls, and 6’ fence.
 - Overall: remove 20 mature trees (some of which are ailing or dead), grade, and install mitigation and enhancement plantings (25 canopy trees, 38 understory trees, shrubs).
- Presentation and Discussion.
 - Revised plans addressed staff and Commission comments and concerns:
 - 8 NDZ boundary markers have been added and spaced approximately 25-30’ apart
 - Conservation seed mix areas are shown on plans and in notes.
 - Tree removal/compensation lists updated b/c tree #33 moved from “dead” to “poor” category.
 - Grading disturbance has been reduced at slope east of proposed sports court to address concerns about runoff to adjacent property
 - Temporary access route for tree transplants has been revised to avoid tree conflicts.
 - Civil engineering plans have been revised to comport with landscape plans.
 - Stormwater plans and assessment have been revised to be more accurate.
 - Fence should not damage or impinge on trees (especially tree #25 and tree #9)
 - The Commission reviewed the proposed tree planting list and discussed the need for oaks or hickories or other canopy trees of high wildlife habitat value. The applicant team asked to forgo oaks because of allergy issues, but agreed to substitute 2 hickories for 2 river birches.
 - The Commission reviewed the proposed shrub planting schedule, Conservation seed mix areas, and mulch areas.
 - Staff concerns about soil disturbance in the wooded area beyond the NDZ line resulted in the Commission conditioning the use of Conservation seed mix in all disturbed areas.
 - The laydown area is on a very steep slope – it will need to be reconsidered during construction.
 - On the civil engineering plan sheet (2 of 6) the erosion control line is annotated as “Proposed Silt Fence (12” Compost Sock)”. Erosion controls will be conditioned to be “Entrenched Silt Fence and staked 12” Compost Sock.”
 - Based on staff concerns, the western infiltration system was moved to provide appropriate separation from groundwater, modified to include an impervious barrier, and modified to improve the location of the inlet.
- Vote. Close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions with the following Special Conditions [Motion: Zabel; Second: Cade; Roll-call vote: Lunin (aye), Gilligan (aye), Cade (aye), Zabel (aye), Katz (aye), Hepburn (aye); Vote: 6:0:0].

- No heavy equipment may pass beyond the erosion control line and/or the snow fence except for access with small, tracked machines, if necessary, for identified tree transplants within the NDZ. Otherwise access beyond the snow fence shall be limited to foot traffic only and hand equipment only.
- An Operations and Maintenance Plan for the infiltration systems must be developed, submitted to the Conservation Office for review and approval, and recorded at the registry of deeds to document and apprise future owners of the requirements for system maintenance.
- All work beyond the erosion control line/limit of grading and all planting within jurisdictional areas must be supervised by a wetland scientist or landscape architect to prevent unpermitted disturbance or impacts to jurisdictional areas.
- Erosion controls shall be entrenched silt fence and staked 10-12" compost sock.
- Snow fencing will be staked, stapled, 4' tall snow fence that remains visible and intact throughout construction.
- Installation of the perimeter privacy fencing shall not impinge upon or harm mature trees, native shrubs, or saplings
- Landscape plantings within Commission jurisdiction must:
 - Be installed in compliance with the approved plans with the exception that 2 native hickory trees shall be substituted for 2 river birches. Any other desired changes must be approved by the Conservation office in advance.
 - Have a survival rate of 80 % of the total of 63 trees (after 2 growing seasons)
 - Have a survival rate of 80 % of total of 77 shrubs (after 2 growing seasons)
 - Have a survival of 100 % coverage of the New England Conservation/Wildlife Seed Mix areas
 - All disturbed areas within the NDZ shall be stabilized with the New England Conservation/Wildlife Seed Mix
 - The site shall be monitored for invasive plant growth for the duration of the Order of Conditions. All invasives will be removed and/or treated during that timeframe. Two annual monitoring reports shall be given to the Conservation Office in a timely manner.
 - Mowing shall be limited to designated lawn areas.
- Bounds shall be installed as per the approved plans and shall be and remain exposed at least 6" above grade.
- If any trees intended to be protected within the project area die within 2 years of the start of construction as a result of the 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).
- 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.
- To protect wetlands and native plants, herbicides shall be applied only to poisonous or noxious plants or to the invasive plants identified in this Order. Herbicides shall be applied (by licensed applicator) in accordance with label instructions.
- To protect the full suite of benefits of area wildlife, and native insects and pollinators, pesticides shall only be employed to address invasive pests (such as wooly adelgid) that threaten the health of native plants. Pesticides shall be applied in accordance with labeled instructions and in a targeted manner.
- To protect the water quality of area wetlands, fertilizers shall not be applied within 25 feet of wetlands, and only in moderation beyond that.
- To protect wetland wildlife, exterior lighting shall:
 - be "dark sky" compliant -- i.e., shielded to prevent any "up lighting" and "backlighting", focused, and directed so as to not illuminate any part of the wetland.
 - have limited blue content to decrease skyglow and disruption of animal behavior
 - be switched off when not in active use
- The bounded No Disturbance Zone shall be maintained in its predominantly natural condition in perpetuity. Mowing shall be limited to designated lawn areas.
- The Operations and Maintenance Plan for the infiltration systems must be adhered to.

4. 50 Buswell Park -- NOI – Landscaping – DEP #239-919

- Owner/Applicant. Aliza Goren and Adam Frankel
- Representative. John Rockwood, EcoTec, Inc, and Roger Washburn (landscape architect)
- Request. Issue OOC.
- Documents in packets. Aerial photo, colored site plans, planting plan
- Additional documents presented at meeting. Site photos
- Jurisdiction. BZ to an intermittent stream (Hyde Brook)
- Project Summary.
 - Within 25 feet of the brook:
 - remove 1 14" diameter Norway maple, a large privet shrub, and oriental bittersweet and euonymus vines
 - prune 5 trees near the brook to create healthier branch structure

- plant 15 native shrubs of three species in two clusters, one on each side of the brook
- Between 25 and 50 feet of the brook
 - recent removal of a 30” diam. Norway maple deemed by the arborist to pose an imminent hazard
 - remove a large euonymus shrub
 - plant a Tulip Poplar (proximate to the removed Norway maple), an Alleghany serviceberry, and 2 native shrubs
- between 50 and 100 feet of the brook
 - remove 0.75 cubic yards of soil to install 210 sf of porous bluestone path and hand rail
 - connect 3 existing roof downspouts to perforated pipe in the stone beneath the porous bluestone path
 - install ~600 sf of sod to replace lawn damaged by the proposed work
 - replace 635 sf of lawn with a predominance of native trees, shrubs, ground cover, and perennials (some ornamentals will be planted near the foundation).
 - modify existing irrigation system accordingly
- Presentation and Discussion.
 - The project seems very reasonable and will not diminish the functions and values of the stream Bank or City Flood Zone.
 - The few non-natives proposed within the Buffer Zone are not invasive and do not constitute a threat.
- Vote. Close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions with the following Special Conditions [Motion: Cade; Second: Hepburn; Roll-call vote: Lunin (aye), Gilligan (aye), Cade (aye), Zabel (aye), Katz (aye), Hepburn (aye); Vote: 6:0:0].
 - 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 of 2 trees (after 2 growing seasons)
 - Have a survival rate of 80 % of total of 35 native shrubs (after 2 growing seasons)
 - If any trees intended to be protected within the project area die within 2 years of the start of construction as a result of the 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).
 - To protect wetlands and native plants, herbicides shall be applied only to poisonous or noxious plants or to the invasive plants identified in this Order. Herbicides shall be applied (by licensed applicator) in accordance with label instructions.
 - To protect the full suite of benefits of area wildlife, and native insects and pollinators, pesticides shall only be employed to address invasive pests (such as wooly adelgid) that threaten the health of native plants. Pesticides shall be applied in accordance with labeled instructions and in a targeted manner.
 - To protect the water quality of area wetlands, fertilizers shall not be applied within 25 feet of wetlands and only in moderation beyond that.

5. 275-281 Needham St., 55 Tower Rd., and 156 Oak St. (Northland) – NOI – Park Development around South Meadow Brook -- DEP #239--921

- Owners. Needham Street Associates (Arthur Friedman, Trustee), Northland Tower Investors, Northland Oak Street LLC
- Applicant. Kent Gonzales, Northland Development, LLC
- Representatives. Christopher Wagner (wetland scientist, VHB), Curtis Quitzau (civil engineer, VHB), Alan Schlessinger (attorney), Genevieve Burke (stormwater engineer), Chris Fee (landscape architect, Stantec)
- Request. Issue COC.
- Documents in packets. Aerial photo, colored site plans
- Additional documents presented at meeting. Slide deck by applicant, site photos
- Jurisdiction. Riverfront Area, Bank, Buffer Zone, City Flood Zone
- Project Summary.
 - This is a portion of the redevelopment of 22.6 acres of vacant industrial land into a large mixed-use development – the Riverfront Area associated with the daylighted portion of South Meadow Brook.
 - The proposed project will impact 70,666 sf of RFA (34,545 sf in the inner riparian and 36,121 sf in the outer riparian zone. Proposed work includes:
 - Construction of buildings, roadways, bike paths, pedestrian footpath and seating areas, and stormwater management features.
 - The Commission’s 25-foot Naturally Vegetated Buffer and the Commission’s Tree Replacement Guidelines have been acknowledged and will be respected. “Tree and shrub removal from within the NVB and 100’ buffer is exclusively for removal of invasive species and restoration.”
 - Selective removal of invasives, removal of impervious surfaces, stabilization and restoration or degraded areas.

- Installation of native plantings.
- Disturbed areas will be stabilized by seeding with native meadow mix.
- The Project will:
 - Approximately 15,000 sf of impervious surface will be removed from the RFA adjacent to South Meadow Brook. Temporary disturbance in the Buffer Zone and Riverfront Area will be stabilized and restored with native trees, shrubs, and grasses.
 - Improve drainage and stormwater treatment within the Riverfront Area.
- A clear limit of work will be identified and erosion and sedimentation control areas will be installed throughout the Project Site.
- Presentation and Discussion.
 - Judy Hepburn had to leave the meeting before this hearing opened.
 - Ellen Katz disclosed for the record that Alan Schlessinger is her legal counsel for an unrelated project. She stated that she could provide impartial review and decision making in regard to this application.
 - It turned out that Staff had not received or had not noticed receipt of the applicant team’s responses to the staff comments in the detailed agenda for this meeting. Staff apologized for the oversight and indicated that they would review the responses provided.
 - The applicant team ran through a slide presentation illustrating proposed modifications within Commission jurisdiction.
 - The proposed stormwater management components will detain, retain, and treat stormwater, will reduce peak flows, and will reduce phosphorus by 65% (as required by the TMDL – total maximum daily load).
 - Overall, impervious area will be reduced by over an acre and ~1/4 acre within Commission jurisdiction.
 - Green roofs will be employed.
 - ~750 trees will be planted.
 - Rainwater will be harvested for irrigation.
 - 90% of parking will be underground so runoff will be relatively clean (and the site will not be a “LUHPPL” – land use of higher potential pollutant loading).
 - Erosion controls will have to be phased. The details of erosion control will be determined by the contractor (once selected) and so will need to be reviewed by the Conservation Commission and/or Office.
 - The team’s intent is not to cut all invasive trees along South Meadow Brook (which might result in bank instability), but to do some selective cutting, debris removal, native planting, and overall slope enhancing.
 - There is cutting and grading proposed in the northwest portion of the wooded South Meadow Brook stream corridor to accommodate the pedestrian pathway and the grading associated with the entry road.
 - Discussion ensued.
 - There was concern noted about the extent of mature trees to be cut to accommodate the park/pathway.
 - There was concern noted about the difficulty of planting on a steep, debris-filled, Norway-maple-dominated slope.
 - The proposed work for the “Mill Park” is not jurisdictional, because the perennial stream is currently entirely within a covered culvert that is over 200 feet long, but the Commission has an interest in protecting the water quality and flow characteristics of the perennial stream within the culvert, and so will discuss and possibly condition work associated with modifications to the culvert.
 - The applicant was asked about ownership of and responsibility for the culvert. Quitzau replied that the City owns the culvert and so is responsible for its maintenance. He noted that it was CCTVd in 2017 and the video made available to the City, but to date there had been no response from the City.
 - The applicant was asked about the intended dog park and garden area near the stream, with a concern about herbicides and pesticide use so close to the wetland resource area.
 - One Commissioner asked that the applicant team present a truly thoughtful planting plan for the stream side, with a goal of bank stability, noting that the Norway maples are failing. She suggested considering cottonwood trees as an example of native trees known to provide bank stability.
 - Conclusions/Next Steps
 - Proposed infrastructure and trees to be saved will be flagged in the field in advance of a site visit scheduled for 5/12/22 at 2:30 pm.
- Vote. Continue the hearing to 5/19/22 for staff to review the applicant’s response memo and the 5/12/22 site visit. [Motion: Katz; Second: Gilligan; Roll-call vote: Lunin (aye), Gilligan (aye), Cade (aye), Zabel (aye), Katz (aye), Vote: 5:0:0]

6. 194 Otis St. -- NOI – After-the-fact filing for landscaping – DEP #239-920

- Owner/Applicant. Fernando Alves, Alfon Properties Corp. (not present)
- Representative. John Rockwood, EcoTec, Inc.

- Request. Issue OOC.
- Documents in packets. Aerial photo, colored site plans, planting plan
- Additional documents presented at meeting. Site photos
- Jurisdiction. BZ to an intermittent stream
- Project Summary.
 - Much of the proposed work on the subject site (addition, grading, landscaping, concrete washout, stockpiling) is outside the Buffer Zone
 - Within the Buffer Zone
 - no structures or impervious surfaces are proposed within the 100' Buffer Zone.
 - removal of all excess fill, removal of the pile of boulders and concrete rubble, and removal of the existing patio
 - removal of one 8" tree (flush cut, with stump ground) adjacent to the 36" eastern white pine
 - top-dressing with high quality loam and seed, hydroseed, or sod for lawn
 - staggered screening planting of 11 eight-foot-tall white spruce (*Picea glauca*) mulched with a 3" thick layer of a 4:1 mixture of decomposed leaf litter and natural colored bark mulch
 - installation of a 40'x2'x2' fabric-lined stone trench
 - The entire 25' Naturally Vegetated Buffer Zone, and additional square footage on the site, will be renaturalized with the creation of a 720± square foot enhancement planting area with 5 native saplings of 2 species and 30 native shrubs of 5 species. Renaturalization shall include invasive species removal and treatment for 2 years after planting has been completed.
- Presentation and Discussion.
 - Following a call about unpermitted tree cutting and grading, Staff issued a stop work order and required delineation and a permit application.
 - The Commission felt that the plans were complete and appropriate to rectify the unpermitted work, improve the ecological health of the inner buffer zone, and protect the health of the adjacent, off-site wetland.
- Vote. Close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions with the following Special Conditions. [Motion: Gilligan; Second: Zabel; Roll-call vote: Lunin (aye), Gilligan (aye), Cade (aye), Zabel (aye), Katz (aye), Vote: 5:0:0]
 - Trees along the eastern property line may not be harmed by the construction or landscaping activities (e.g., grading, compaction, or direct impact).
 - Landscape plantings and bounds within Commission jurisdiction must be installed in compliance with the approved plans (desired changes must be approved by the Conservation office in advance) and must:
 - Have a survival rate of 100 % of total of 16 trees (after 2 growing seasons)
 - Have a survival rate of 100 % of total of 30 shrubs (after 2 growing seasons)
 - Within the enhancement planting area, mulch applications shall diminish over time and eventually cease as ground cover species and shrubs spread.
 - Erosion controls shall be entrenched siltation fence fronted by 12" compost sock within the 100' Buffer Zone
 - The trees along the eastern site boundary will be protected by the proposed erosion control barrier and the area beneath these trees will be mulched with 3" of 4:1 mixture of decomposed leaf litter and natural colored bark mulch.
 - The trees along the southern site boundary will be protected with orange snow fencing staked well away from the trunks and the area beneath these trees will be mulched with a 3" of 4:1 mixture of decomposed leaf litter and natural colored bark mulch.
 - If any trees intended to be protected within the project area die within 2 years of the start of construction as a result of the 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).
 - The stone infiltration trench must be installed as per the approved plans and must be indicated on the as-built plans. No fabric shall be placed on top of the stone of the infiltration trench.
 - To protect wetlands and native plants, herbicides shall be applied only to poisonous or noxious plants or to the invasive plants identified in this Order. Herbicides shall be applied (by licensed applicator) in accordance with label instructions.
 - To protect the full suite of benefits of area wildlife, and native insects and pollinators, pesticides shall only be employed to address invasive pests (such as wooly adelgid) that threaten the health of native plants. Pesticides shall be applied in accordance with labeled instructions and in a targeted manner.
 - To protect the water quality of area wetlands, fertilizers shall not be applied within 25 feet of wetlands and only in moderation beyond that.

7. Revising the Commission's standard perpetual herbicide and pesticide conditions.

- Discussion. The Commission’s current standard perpetual conditions (immediately below) categorically disallow the use of herbicides and pesticides and are difficult, if not impossible, to enforce. Perpetual conditions are, however, valuable educational tools and can help improve overall ecological health of Newton’s wetland resource areas. Commissioners agreed that revised language would be an improvement.
 - To protect the water quality of area wetlands, fertilizers shall be of low-nitrogen content and be used in moderation.
 - To protect the full suite of benefits of area wildlife, and native insects and pollinators, no pesticides shall be used.
 - To protect wetlands, no herbicides shall be used.
- Consensus. Adopt the following language as the standard starting point for site/application specific discussions.
 - To protect wetlands and native plants, herbicides must be applied (by a licensed applicator) in accordance with label instructions and only to poisonous or noxious plants that pose health risks to the safety and health of the general public, employees and contractors who may have dermal contact or to the invasive plants identified in this Order.
 - To protect the full suite of benefits of area wildlife, and native insects and pollinators, pesticides shall only be employed to address invasive pests (such as wooly adelgid) that threaten the health of native plants. Pesticides shall be applied in accordance with labeled instructions and in a targeted manner.
 - To protect the water quality of area wetlands, fertilizers be used in moderation and shall not be applied within 25 feet of wetlands.

B. CONSERVATION AREA DECISIONS

8. Ira Wallach Trail needs staking.

- Staff will set a date with Green for a site visit to install stakes and trail blazes.

C. 9:55 – ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS

9. Minutes of 3/31/22 to be approved

- Documents in packets. Draft 3/31/22 minutes as edited by Green
- Vote. Approve the 3/31/22 minutes as edited by Green. [Motion: Katz; Second: Gilligan; Roll-call vote: Lunin (aye), Gilligan (aye), Cade (aye), Zabel (aye), Katz (aye), Vote: 5:0:0]
- Next volunteer? Katz volunteered to review the 4/28/22 minutes

D. ISSUES AROUND TOWN DECISIONS – none at this time

- Stream name signs. Signs will actually cost \$250 each for fabrication and installation.
- Vote. Staff should proceed to work with DPW to fabricate and install 8 stream name signs in the following locations as a pilot program. [Motion: Lunin; Second: Zabel; Roll-call vote: Lunin (aye), Gilligan (aye), Cade (aye), Zabel (aye), Katz (aye), Vote: 5:0:0]

Cheese Cake Brook	@	Watertown St
Laundry Brook	@	Walnut St
Hammond Brook	@	Centre St
South Meadow Brook	@	Oak St
South Meadow Brook	@	Winchester St
South Meadow Brook	@	Dedham St.
Paul Brook	@	Parker St
Saw Mill Brook	@	Vine St

UPDATES

E. WETLANDS UPDATES and ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES – none at this time

F. CONSERVATION AREA UPDATES

- Annual Land Management Contract. The bid request was posted on 4/13/22, a pre-bid meeting was held (but with no bidders in attendance) on 4/21/22. The bid opening has been extended to 5/12/22 to allow for corrections to the text and an extended opportunity for new bidders to engage.
- Rohan Martin Peters will re-do trail by cliffs in the NW corner of Webster Conservation Area.
- Staff submitted an earmark application to fund the Christina Street Rail Bridge.
- Staff will submit a MassTrails grant application to fund the stairs connecting the Upper Falls Greenway with Upper Falls Riverwalk.

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

10. Commissioner terms

- Commissioners whose terms expired in 2022 and have “re-upped”: Green

- Commissioners whose terms are due to expire in 2022 and have expressed their intent to “re-up”: Katz (3 yrs), Gilligan (3 yrs)
- Commissioners whose terms are due to expire in 2023 and have expressed their intent to “re-up”: Cade, Lunin
- Commissioners whose terms are due to expire in 2022 and 2023 and have yet to commit: Hepburn and Zabel

11. Earth Day - recap

- Menounos created a “Conservation” booth and spent the entire “festival” (1-4 pm) fruitfully engaging with residents. She suggests that next year Commissioners sign up to assist and join in the fun.

12. Peer Review Process

- Commissioners inquired about the process that would need to be undertaken should they determine during the Northland Development site visit on 5/12/22 to require a peer review of the proposed stream bank restoration and park development. Staff summarized the process and indicated that they would apprise the Northland applicant team of this potential.

H. ADJOURN Vote. Adjourn at 10:19 [Motion: Gilligan; Second: Zabel; Roll-call vote: Lunin (aye), Gilligan (aye), Cade (aye), Zabel (aye), Katz (aye), Vote: 5:0:0