



Town of Hudson
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749
(978) 562-2948

Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chair James Martin

Roll Call: James Martin, Heidi Graf, Paul Osborne, Brooke Warrington, Brandon Parker, Patrick Thayer (associate)

Staff: Pam Helinek, Conservation Agent

Public Hearings

69 Hunter Ave, RDA #590

Present: Joe Finlayson

The applicant requests after-the-fact permitting for an existing dock that was in place when he purchased the property. It is a removable dock that sits on concrete steps with feet on the bottom of the lake. It causes no disturbance to Bank or Land Under Water. James Martin moved to close the hearing and issue a Negative Determination, second by Brandon Parker, vote 5-0-0.

5 Parmenter Road, RDA #591

Present: David Cowell, Hancock Associates

Documents:

- Existing Conditions Plan, 5 Parmenter Road, Hudson, MA; prepared by Hancock Associates; dated 10/31/23; scale 1"=10'

The applicant proposes to remove an existing garage and construct an addition to the house on existing driveway area. Due to an error in communications, a building permit was issued before wetlands permitting was complete. Erosion controls in the form of straw wattles are installed. Silt fence is also present, although not entrenched, and it cannot be entrenched until the ground thaws. The foundation has been dug out and cement is in place. A large soil pile remains on the property beyond the new foundation.

Paul Osborne asked if the work against the back of the house was sufficiently protected by erosion controls. James Martin requested that the soil pile be tarped for extra protection.

Brandon Parker requested a second row of wattles along the driveway. Heidi Graf suggested that a mulch sack would be heavier and more effective than the straw wattles. She asked how long the dirt pile would be on site and what the long-term plans were for the soil. David Cowell said he would talk to the property owner about the plans for using or removing the soil and stabilizing the area.

James Martin moved to close the hearing and issue a Negative Determination, second by Paul Osborne, vote 5-0-0. Conditions: Additional erosion control to be installed across the driveway, silt fence to be embedded when possible, soil pile to be tarped.

Lot 5 Brigham Street, continued NOI, #190-0702

Present: Tim Callahan

Documents:

- Site Plan & ConCom Exhibit: Brigham Street, Hudson, MA; dated 10/18/23; revised 1/9/24; prepared by Hawk Consulting; signed and stamped by Timothy R. Callahan PLS # 35022 and Charles E. Michaud PE # 24091; scale 1"=40'
- Checklist for Stormwater Management, signed and stamped by Charles E. Michaud, PCE#24494, dated 1/9/2024
- Drainage Report, Lot 5 Brigham Street, Hudson, MA; dated 10/18/23; revised 1/8/24; prepared by HAWK Consulting, Inc.; signed and stamped by Charles E. Michaud, PCE#24494

The applicant submitted a stormwater checklist, drainage report, and stormwater management design as required by DEP. Cultec chambers and a rain garden have been added to the plans. Under Hudson's new Stormwater Bylaw, a review by DPW is now required. Brandon Parker requested an O&M plan be submitted covering both the infiltration chambers and rain garden.

James Martin moved to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions, second by Heidi Graf, vote 4-0-1. Special Conditions: submittal of an O&M plan, comply with DPW requirements before construction begins and return to Conservation Commission if any changes are required by DPW.

Coolidge Street, continued NOI #190-0564

James Martin moved to continue the hearing to February 1, 2024 at 7:00 PM, second by Heidi Graf, vote 5-0-0.

Danforth Falls Conservation Land, RDA #589

Present: Patrick Thayer, Ken Skudder

The Conservation Commission plans to remove invasive vegetation in Danforth Falls Conservation Land, some of it near Danforth Brook. Invasives near the brook will be hand pulled without the use of herbicide. Currently Patrick Thayer and Ken Scudder are pulling barberry and burning bush when the weather permits. They plan to run volunteer work days starting in the spring.

James Martin asked how the plants were disposed of after they were pulled. Patrick Thayer has been leaving them on top of rocks to dry out. Ken Skudder said CISMA almost always leaves plant material on site to compose. Brandon Parker said that there may be better solutions. James Martin said that a plan should be in place before the volunteer days start.

James Martin moved to issue a Negative Determination, second by Brandon Parker, vote 5-0-0.

Administrative Business

Invasive Vegetation

Pam Helinek reported that she, Patrick Thayer and Recreation Director Steven Santos discussed removal of the large Trees of Heaven near the Skate Park. Pam Helinek then spoke with Parterre Environmental and was told that incisions should be made in the tree and injected with herbicide, and that the tree shouldn't be cut until it was completely dead to avoid underground spread. Heidi Graf suggested that signage be posted near the trees to explain what is being done and why. James Martin suggested information could also be distributed at HudsonFest. Brooke Warrington and Patrick Thayer have been working on information sheets about invasive plants that could be distributed at the HudsonFest booth.

Minutes – James Martin moved to approve the minutes from January 4, 2024, second by Heidi Graf, vote 5-0-0.

Adjournment

James Martin moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Heidi Graf, vote 5-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.