

**Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of March 7, 2024**  
**140 Main St. – Marlborough City Hall – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor (Memorial Hall)**

**APPROVED MARCH 21, 2024**

**Members Present:** Edward Clancy-Chairman, Allan White, John Skarin, Dennis Demers, Dave Williams, Liz Austin; also present, Priscilla Ryder-Conservation Officer

**Members Absent:** William Dunbar

The hearing was recorded using Microsoft Teams

Chairman Clancy welcomed the newest Commission member Elizabeth Austin to the Commission. This meeting marks her first meetings as a fully appointed member.

**Minutes:** The minutes of February 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 were reviewed and on a motion by Mr. White, second by Chair to approve the Commission voted 6-0 to approve.

**Public hearings: Request for Determination of Applicability**

**58 Walker St. – Andrea Ferro owner**

*Proposal to install a new pvc sewer pipe to service 58 Walker St. The new sewer pipe will allow the abandonment of the existing septic system. The work proposed is near wetlands.*

Bob Parente owner's representative explained that they propose to connect a 40' new sewer line connection to the home's garage. 58 Walker St. is a 3 family with a detached building. It is designed to drain by gravity to the sewer in the street. The plan is to start the project April 2024. The driveway will be saw cut and there will be no trees removed. Engineering has approved the project. Erosion controls are shown on the plans and will be installed. The house behind at 56 Walker St. already drains into the sewer trunkline, but that wasn't an option for #58. Once connected the septic system will be abandoned. Mr. Parente noted that property owner is looking to attain a negative determination. Mr. Demers noted they may find ledge as this area has shallow bedrock. After some discussion on a motion by Mr. White second by Chair to issue a negative determination with standard conditions, the Commission voted unanimously 6-0 to approve.

**DISCUSSION**

**Felton Conservation Land**

*Mowing update*

Mr. Amici from Adda Farm provided his annual report regarding the mowing performed in 202. He told the Commission that his first cut was last July which yielded 136 square bales of hay and 13 round bales. It was such a rainy year he only got one cut. He asked the Commission about the milkweed on the site and if he was allowed to control it. The Commission noted from the photo that it looks more like Joe Pie weed or Boneset and not milkweed. Ms. Ryder will meet Mr. Amici on site in spring to confirm and then determine whether this area should be mown or left to flower? He also asked if he could fertilize the fields with horse manure. The Commission had no objections but asked that they be notified so they can alert neighbors if that is needed, due to potential smell issues. Ms. Ryder noted that there is a small area on the trail in the lower field that the trails committee would like to install a bog bridge that will be easily removable before mowing. Mr. Amici had no objections. Mr. Williams suggested Mr. Amici reach out to NRCS as they help farmers with questions and sometimes funding to help improve yields and manage fields. The Commission



then reviewed the annual license to mow for 2024. After some discussion with the applicant, Mr. Skarin made the motion seconded by Chair to issue a one-year license agreement for mowing the fields to ADDA Farm. The Commission voted unanimously 6-0 to approve.

#### **541 Pleasant St. – Order of Conditions - Wetland Violation Resolution –**

**Mr. Alexandre Sampaio- owner was present.**

It was explained that Chairman Clancy, Ms. Ryder, and Mr. Dunbar had met with Mr. Sampaio to come up with an implementation plan for the restoration work proposed based on the plan previously presented by Hancock Associates. Mr. Clancy and Ms. Ryder outlined the steps agreed to which include a three phase, three-year restoration, and monitoring project: Phase 1 (Spring 2024) will be the planting of trees, shrubs and ferns in the wetland area that was disturbed, and planting of all trees in the 30' buffer zone, 100' buffer zone and Riverfront area. Starting the invasive plant removal will also be part of phase 1. Phase 2 (Spring 2025) will be the planting of shrubs and herbaceous layers at the 30' and 100' no disturb buffer zone and riverfront area. The on-going control of invasive plants will also be part of phase 2. Phase 3 (2025 and ongoing) Continue invasive plant management. The commission reviewed the drafted language and the only change made was to quantify the tree sizes to 1" or 1 ½" caliper trees. Not too big, but big enough to be able to grow well.

As this is an enforcement action, as noted in previous meetings, the Commission determined that an enforcement order with the approved drafted conditions would be issued. On a motion by Mr. Skarin, second by Chair to issue the enforcement order as drafted and amended, the Commission voted 6-0 to approve.

#### **Vernal Pool certification update for this season**

Ms. Ryder noted that vernal pool critters including wood frogs, salamanders, and spring peepers began to migrate to the vernal pools this past rain event. She asked if any members of the Commission wanted to help certify some pools that need to be checked. Mr. Williams indicated he would like to help, Ms. Ryder noted that Mr. Dunbar will likely help again as he helped last year.

#### **Correspondence/Other Business**

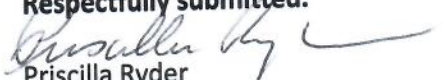
The following correspondence was reviewed and on a motion by Mr. White second by Chair to place on file it was unanimously approved 6-0.

Notification of Pipeline Maintenance Activity- Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company- Feb 27, 2024  
Reminder - Site Walk Robin Hill St. on March 14, 2024, 1:00 PM

**Next Conservation Commission meetings, March 21 & April 4, 2024**

**Adjournment**, there being no further business on a motion by Mr. White second by Mr. Clancy to adjourn, the Commission voted unanimously to approve 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

**Respectfully submitted.**

  
Priscilla Ryder  
Conservation/ Sustainability Officer  
PR/cs