**Conservation Commission Approved March 7, 2024**

**Minutes**

**February 1, 2024 - 7:00 PM**

**140 Main St. – Marlborough City Hall – 3rd Floor (Memorial Hall)**

**Members Present:** Edward Clancy-Chairman, Allan White, William Dunbar, John Skarin, Karin Paquin, Dave Williams;also present, Priscilla Ryder-Conservation officer & new Associate Member Liz Austin

**Members Absent:** Dennis Demers

The hearing was recorded using Microsoft Teams

**Approval of Minutes**: Minutes of January 4, 11, 18, 2024 were reviewed, on a motion by Mr. White second by chair, the Commission voted unanimously to approve 6-0.

**Public hearings:**

**Request for Determination of Applicability**

**67 Simmons St. – Joe Barton – Homeowner**

**Proposes to add an addition to his house which is near wetlands.**

Contractor Micheal Cardarelli and homeowner Joe Barton were present. Mr. Cardarelli explained that they want to add an addition to the house as shown on the plan. They are outside the 50’ wetland watershed zone, and will be adding a foundation with a crawl space not a full basement and a covered walkway. Ms. Ryder noted that she had flagged the site last summer but the flags have been taken down and they will need to be replaced again when construction starts. The Commission noted that erosion controls will need to be to added around the work area. There will need to be erosion controls provided. The Commission also discussed the need for a new perimeter drain around the foundation to be shown on the plans, this can be reflected in the conditions and shown on final as-built plan.. Mr. Cardarelli explained there is a pre-existing French drain that flows out which they will tie into. There will also be some stumps pulled on the property. There being no further questions the Public hearing was closed. On a motion by Mr. Skarin, seconded by Chair to issue a Negative Determination with Standard Conditions, the Commission voted unanimously 6-0 to approve.

**Discussion / Correspondence/Other Business:**

**541 Pleasant St. -Violation Update- Property owned by Alexandre Sampaio.**

David Cowell, Wetlands Scientist with Hancock was present representing the owner. He reviewed the plan he has prepared for his client showing the wetland flags observed by the Commission at a previous site visit. He noted that he has shown the 200 ‘ riverfront area, the wetlands which will have 100% restoration of trees and shrubs. The 30’ buffer zone area restoration and the remaining 100’ buffer restoration. He has provided a plant list. Ms. Ryder asked if there was a sequence plan or steps outlined. Mr. Cowell noted that he has included notes on the plans. The Commission will review the notes but explained that they want to make sure there is a clear objective of what needs to be done and that Mr. Sampaio is aware of that. They want to see a complete restoration plan with someone who is qualified to do the job and see it through. The enforcement order to be issued must outline, what exactly is being done with some timelines as metrics to measure success by. Mr. Cowell noted that is his discussion with Mr. Sampaio, finances will be an issue. He also reviewed the notes for the iInvasive species management, Japanese knotweed and bittersweet and others. The Commission asked that a more detailed outline be provided and that the schedule would start with the restoration of the wetlands and 30’ buffer zone. Mr. Cowell will convey same to his client.

Forest cutting plan Desert Natural Area - Ms. Ryder noted that the forest cutting plan has been approved by the regional State Forester, so the project at the Desert Natural Area is ready to move forward. When all contracts are signed etc.

**Next Conservation Commission meetings**, January 18 & February 1, 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 8:08 pm.

**Respectfully submitted.**

Priscilla Ryder

Conservation/ Sustainability Officer

PR/pr