



TOWN OF MENDON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Meeting Date: 2/10/2022
Meeting Location: Remote Teams Meeting/Upper Town Hall
Minutes Approved: 2/24/2022

Members Present: Peter Coffin, Susan Cahalan, Michael Ammendolia, Carl Hommel, Emilio Perez, Timothy Aicardi

Members Absent: Damon Tinio

Conservation Agent: Emily Petro

Others: None

Timothy Aicardi called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Michael Ammendolia makes motion to accept the meeting minutes of January 27, 2022 prepared by Agent Emily Petro, seconded by Timothy Aicardi. Roll call vote: Mike Ammendolia: aye; Timothy Aicardi: aye; Susan Cahalan; aye; Emilio Perez: aye. The motion passed without the vote of Carl Hommel, as he did not have the minutes to review, due to his being remote.

Frederick Lapham of Shea Engineering presents a **Request for an Extension Permit Order of Conditions (DEP File #218-0745) for the Miscoe Springs Subdivision**. Mr. Lapham asks the Commission for a three-year extension of the Order of Conditions, one of three Orders of Conditions governing the Site.

Carl Hommel asks for clarification regarding whether the presentation should be delayed to the 7:15 start time as posted on the agenda. Mr. Aicardi offers that the item is an administrative task and does not require the presence of the public. The Commission allows Mr. Lapham to proceed with his presentation and agrees that they will not vote on the matter until after the advertised 7:15 p.m. start.

Mr. Lapham describes the site constraints and other external factors that have resulted in the project's delay. Mr. Lapham asks for a full three-year extension to allow time to complete the construction of the houses and the roads.

At 7:15 p.m. Mr. Aicardi addresses public audience for questions. No one is in attendance.

Agent Emily Petro comments on her site visit and remarks on site stability, completeness of the stream crossing and does not have any concerns to raise.

Mike Ammendolia makes motion to grant three-year extension of the Order of Conditions under DEP File #218-0745 for Miscoe Springs Subdivision, seconded by Emilio Perez. Roll call vote: Mike Ammendolia:

aye; Emilio Perez: aye; Timothy Aicardi: aye; Carl Hommel: aye; Susan Cahalan; aye; Peter Coffin: aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Aicardi addresses the Commission to inquire about other activity to review.

Agent Emily Petro addresses the Commission and comments on a Request for Determination of Applicability that she has received from a homeowner looking to remove hazard trees. She also mentions a meeting with Anne Mazar, the Chair of the Mendon Land/Energy Use Committee regarding the Pond Street open space encroachment.

Vice Chairman Peter Coffin states that a letter needs to be sent by the Commission to Mr. Afonso to remedy the encroachment per a verbal agreement reached at a site visit held last year. Mr. Coffin believes that work has already commenced without the Commission's approval. Mr. Carl Hommel confirms that Mr. Afonso agreed to submit a plan to the Commission and has not followed through with the verbal agreement. The Commission decides to review a letter addressing Mr. Afonso at the next meeting, to be drafted by Agent Emily Petro.

Ms. Petro mentions that she wants to develop a tree removal policy for the Town of Mendon. Vice Chairman Peter Coffin states that it has not been the Commission's practice to request that a homeowner put forth any documentation in order to cut down trees. Peter Coffin also states that the Commission has been led to believe that a homeowner can cut up to ten cords of wood a year without any permit. Mr. Aicardi states that they take each case individually.

Mr. Coffin mentions an additional letter that needs to be drafted for non-permitted work within the 100-foot buffer occurring at Swandale Drive. Ms. Petro agrees to review the documentation and prepare a letter.

A discussion occurs between Commission member regarding the Agent's hours and the potential need for an increase.

Susan Cahalan shares a letter issued by DEP regarding the site visit to occur the following Thursday, February 17th for 29 Hartford Avenue.

A discussion occurs about meeting schedules and deadlines to be outlined and posted on the Town website and prepared by Ms. Petro.

After a discussion about the interpretation of the Wetlands Protection Act and removal of trees and vegetation, a motion is made by Timothy Aicardi to have Agent Emily Petro draft a Tree Removal Policy for the Town to be reviewed at a future meeting, seconded by Mike Ammendolia. Roll call vote: Timothy Aicardi: aye; Mike Ammendolia: aye; Susan Cahalan: aye; Emilio Perez: aye; Peter Coffin: aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Minutes prepared by Emily Petro, Agent