



SUDBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of Monday, May 10, 2021

Present: Thomas Friedlander, Chair; David Henkels, Vice Chair; Bruce Porter; Mark Sevier; Richard Morse; Ken Holtz; Kasey Rogers; Jeremy Cook (Associate Member); and Lori Capone, Conservation Coordinator

Chair Friedlander opened the meeting under the MA Wetlands Protection Act and the Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw at 6:45 PM, via roll call vote.

Wetland Applications:

Request for Determination of Applicability: Memorial Forest RDA 21-4

Chairman Friedlander welcomed Walker Fryling to present his Request to replace and extend a boardwalk within wetland resource areas in the Memorial Forest, pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw.

Mr. Fryling stated he was proposing replacement of a boardwalk that is narrow and difficult to traverse safely in the Sudbury Valley Trustee's Memorial Forest, who endorsed this project. He gave details along with photos of his boardwalk plan. The new boardwalk would use anchors to keep the boardwalk in place. He said there would be minimal cutting in the area and maintained the new walk would be an improvement to the wetland area surrounding the boardwalk. It would be constructed in the summer months.

Coordinator Capone stated the new walkway is an improvement from the existing one, as it eliminates the pressure treated wood currently in place. The new bridge rests on footings that do not require any digging, while adding width for more secure passage that would keep users from going off the sides into the wetlands. K. Holtz asked for further clarification on the footings. Mr. Fryling said they had considered different types of footings, saying the concrete blocks wound up being the best product for this project. Mr. Fryling said the labor would primarily be by hand, using minimal tools.

With no further questions from the Commission or the public, Richard Morse moved to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability. Seconded by D. Henkels, the motion passed 6-0 (K. Rogers abstained), to issue a Negative Determination, via roll call vote.

Other Business:

Well installation at Poor Farm Meadow:

Chairman Friedlander welcomed Chris Kurth, from Sienna Farms in North Sudbury for his request. Mr. Kurth explained that Poor Farm Meadow has been farmed for about ten years. He stated in the summer the fields become very dry. It was no longer feasible to rely on weather conditions. He was proposing an irrigation system to assist in watering the crops. He presented the plan to the Commission. He was targeting May/July for completion, which may change due to time frames of other companies involved. Coordinator Capone shared the map and detailed the location of the irrigation system. She believed it would allow for longer term use of this field for agriculture.

The License Agreement was discussed which would end in February leading to a discussion about extending the five-year License to a ten-year License. The Commission indicated they were in favor of a ten-year License. M. Sevier asked if there had been any investigation of using the town water supply. Mr. Kurth stated there did not appear to be much enthusiasm by the Town, possibly due to the amount of water to be used. On motion by B. Porter, seconded by D. Henkels, the Commission voted unanimously via roll

call vote to approve the installation of a well for irrigation purposes. Further discussion about licensing would occur as the end of the License approached.

Tree Removal/Meadow Restoration at Hop Brook Marsh:

Chairman Friedlander welcomed the neighbors of Hop Brook Marsh, and recognized Judy Sheldon, 48 Millpond Road as the spokesperson. Coordinator Capone displayed the trail map and Ms. Sheldon directed their attention to the area of the meadow. She said it is full of buckthorn which has filled in the meadow over the past several years. She said this area had been mowed in the past. She stated the neighbors would be willing to go in and help with a cleanup. They were interested in attempting to eradicate the buckthorn. Chairman Friedlander asked what their plan was to achieve this. Ms. Sheldon stated she was open to recommendations from the Commission. Coordinator Capone encouraged the Commissioners go out to the location to evaluate the area. She stated weed wrenches could be used to pull some of the smaller plants, but larger ones would necessitate the use of herbicide or heavy machinery. The Commission would be required to hire a licensed herbicide applicator, as it was on Public Land. She noted that if this was something the Commission chooses to maintain as an open meadow, funds in the budget would need to be planned for. Chairman Friedlander stated if the Commission were in favor of this, then a visit would be scheduled by the Coordinator shortly, providing additional information to help form a plan to be discussed at a future meeting.

Tipling Rock Conservation Land Trail Project:

Coordinator Capone presented the plan to move the path which currently is on private property, to the adjacent Town land. She reviewed the site and asked the Commission to assist in relocating about 300 feet of trail. She stated the landowner has been very patient with the Town, and wanted to make this a priority. K. Rogers indicated she had reached out to various scout troops requesting their volunteerism. Coordinator Capone has also reached out to the Bowhunters. She stated it would be about a ½ day project with about 12 volunteers. Kasey Rogers will work with Coordinator Capone to coordinate this effort.

26 Goodman's Hill Road, DEP #301-

Coordinator Capone stated she was recently contacted by the homeowner to resolve an outstanding Order associated with an Enforcement Order issued to the prior owner. After the original builder had been issued the Violation, the creation of a meadow and invasive species removal as remediation was required. The Order required the area to be 100% invasive species free to qualify for issuance of a Certificate of Compliance. She stated there was a \$6,000 Bond in order to ensure the project was completed. The homeowners are seeking assistance from the Commission as to how 100% invasive free might be accomplished. The Coordinator stated the area is completely surrounded by a wall of invasive species, and achieving that level of removal was not practicable. She stated there was the presence of phragmites that was not present elsewhere that should be addressed. She stated a site visit by the Commission would be helpful in determining what they would like to see done at this point for the homeowners to receive a Certificate of Compliance. She added there were Commissioners who had been to the site before when the Violation was issued, prior to her having joined the Conservation Department, who may have additional perspectives to share. A site visit will be conducted to help them better inform their decision.

Associate Membership:

Chairman Friedlander stated he was stepping down as a member of the Commission at the end of the May 10 meeting. He did not want to completely discontinue his participation, and asked to be named an Associate Member. On motion by Kasey Rogers to appoint Tom Friedlander an Associate Member, seconded by Ken Holtz, the Commission so voted unanimously by roll call vote, pending the Select Board approval. Jeremy Cook, the current Associate Member, would apply as a full member with the endorsement of the Commission and Select Board as moved by K. Holtz, seconded by R. Morse, via roll call vote all so voted.

Commission Reorganization:

The Chair then asked the Commission to vote a new Chair and Vice Chair.

On motion by K. Holtz, seconded by K. Rogers to elect Dave Henkels as the new Chairman of the Conservation Commission, unanimously voted via roll call.

K. Holtz moved to nominate R. Morse as Vice Chair, who declined, as did M. Sevier. K. Holtz stated he would assume the role if nominated. On motion by B. Porter, seconded by R. Morse, K. Holtz was unanimously elected via roll call vote to serve as Vice Chair.

On motion by R. Morse, seconded by B. Porter, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting, via roll call vote, at 7:47 PM.