

**SOMERSWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP (SITE WALK) MEETING
August 22, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Angela Ficco, Larry Hamilton, Sarah McGraw, Mercedes O'Donohue, Scott Orzechowski, Jeremy Rhodes, Dale Smith-Kenyon

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: None

The meeting was called to order by S Orzechowski at 5:34 p.m.

- 1) Workshop Business
Site walk to view after-the-fact 100' No Disturb Wetland Buffer Disturbance at Commercial and Willand Drive, in the Commercial Industrial (CI) District, Assessor's Map, 43 Lots 1-G, 1-I, and 1-K.

Lot 1-G was walked first, followed by 1-I and 1-K last. The site had been flagged by applicant's engineering team prior to the meeting; both engineering representatives and the applicant attended the walk as well. Note that some disturbance on lot 1-G is likely due to Eversource work near their power lines; a band 135' wide in this lot is a mixed (Eversource and Unitol) easement.

Stockpiles of rock and loam are noted on site; in much of lots 1-I and 1-K there is extensive disturbance within the 0-50' buffer as well as the 50-100' buffer. In these areas, applicant constructed a berm out of clay and construction debris from other lots on site, and installed a silt fence at the base of the downward slope beyond the berm near the wetland perimeter. There were some significant erosion cuts noted in lot 1-G, but the berm is otherwise seemingly serving its purpose; in the areas with erosion noted, there is a buildup of silt at the fence apparent, in some cases nearly overtopping the fence. There are also a number of invasive species growing in and beyond the berm in disturbed areas, notably Japanese Knotweed, Buckthorn, and Creeping Thistle, particularly prevalent in lot 1-K.

The far side of lot 1-K does not have silt fence or berm installed. The applicant did seed portions of lot 1-G with conservation mix in order to control erosion.

Concerns (beyond the extensive disturbance) noted by the commission during the walk were the eroded areas of the berm, condition of the silt fence (particularly in the eroded segments), and the presence of invasive species in proximity to the wetland areas.

D. Smith-Kenyon moved to adjourn; S Orzechowski seconded. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremy Rhodes
Conservation Commission Secretary