

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – CONSERVATION COMMISSION
October 11, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Bryar
Sean Collins
Jeremy Degler
Scott Orzechowski
Jeremy Rhodes
Dale Smith-Kenyon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kevin Dodds

STAFF PRESENT: Dana Crossley

The meeting was called to order by S. Orzechowski at 6:02 pm.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

Corrections:

- 3A – note that there is to be no routine cutting of the plantings.
- CUPs – both A and C – Note that Bob Stowell is from Tritech Engineering
- CUP 3B – Note that Mike Davis is the applicant, presenting on his own behalf.
- CUP 3C – Note that the Landscape Plan is to be presented to the commission

J. Degler moves to accept as amended, D. Smith-Kenyon seconds. Motion carries 6-0-0

2. PUBLIC COMMENT (five minutes per person and subject to closure in interest of time)

None

3. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT REQUESTS

- A. Michael Davis is seeking a conditional use permit for after the fact excavation and alterations within the Riparian and Wetland Buffer on a property located at 25 Otis Road, in the Residential/Single Family (R1) District, Assessor's Map 31, Lot 49, CUP#03-2023.**

The applicant has requested a continuance to November, as he is coordinating with his surveyor to provide the plans as requested in the September meeting. No other developments have occurred; the next court hearing regarding this item is scheduled in March.

J. Degler moves to table the request until the October meeting; J. Rhodes seconds. Motion carries 6-0-0.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Any new business to come before the Commission.**

D. Crossley notes that NHACC dues are now due, in the amount of \$550.00.

J. Rhodes moves to appropriate \$550 from the Conservation fund for the purpose of paying dues; S. Collins seconds. Motion carries 6-0-0

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Easement monitoring

No Update

B. Any Correspondence regarding old business

Kristina, the manager at Wild Birds Unlimited, has contacted the Commission to take part in a joint effort related to backyard habitat. S. Orzechowski will follow up.

The City Code Compliance officer has submitted a list of recommended species for urban planting conditions; the Commission notes that there are several nonnatives on this list, and will revisit at the next session, with the intent of developing a native list from this one.

C. MEMBER ITEMS, SUB-COMMITTEE ITEMS, AND REPORTS

i. Wildlife management plan for Lily Pond parcel (Scott Orzechowski)

No Update.

ii. Invasives plan sub-committee report (Dale Smith-Kenyon)

No Update

Note that there is apparent soil movement from a site on Copperhead Road; this will be referred Code Enforcement.

Bittersweet growth has been noted throughout the city; recommendation to cut near soil line and remove growth in a trash bag.

iii. Exploration of formal conservation of Malley Farm city parcel

K. Dodds is not here to provide an update tonight; a project sheet is out, with the intent being to formally conserve the land prior to initiation of the trail project.

Council approval is required to conserve the land; this should be discussed shortly.

iv. City tree GPS inventory project

D. Bryar and K. Dodds met to discuss; there's a need for an ESRI license to use the app. Amber Hall, City Engineer, has confirmed that the City has one to provide access. Elizabeth Durfee, the contractor who assisted with Dover's inventory, was also contacted. She coordinated volunteer labor for the project; 16 volunteer surveyors were involved, with a total of 72.5 hours of time logged. She could provide training for us as well, presumably for a fee. Dover's survey covered only the central business district. 327 trees were included, at a cost of approximately \$12,000. Dover did utilize grant support for the project. We'd want to prioritize our areas of inventory, with actual inventory happening in April or May. We'll need to determine cost centers. Elizabeth Durfee is willing to speak to the commission; D. Bryar will determine her availability.

v. Malley Farm New England Cottontail Release

Release planned for this October/November

D. Any other old business that may come before the Commission – None

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Balance forward from 8/9:	\$256,535.98
Interest:	\$878.58
End Balance:	\$256,694.56

D. Smith-Kenyon moves to adjourn; J. Degler seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremy Rhodes
Conservation Commission Secretary