



ESSEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes for the Meeting of February 15, 2022

Commissioners:	*Absent	+Remote	Staff:
Cliff Ageloff	Bill Levy		Deborah Cunningham
Thomas Barrieau	Ted Marshall+		Administrative Clerk
Kevin Cooke	Laureen Sanderson		

The Conservation Commission held a public meeting under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40 at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. The meeting was held at Town Hall, 30 Martin Street. Remote access was provided.

The Commission reviewed a request for a one (1) year Extension to Order of Conditions DEP #021-0707 for 0 Conomo Point Road issued to the Town of Essex to allow for the finalization of the work. On a motion made and duly seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to issue a one (1) year Extension.

The Minutes for April 5, 2022 and April 19, 2022 were not available for review. The Commissioners advised that the Minutes for May 10, 2022 had not been reviewed. The Commission tabled the approval of the Minutes to the meeting of June 7, 2022.

The Commission continued the discussion on the technology issues. The Administrative Clerk advised that access to the Town's internet connection would require that administrative functions for the laptop be locked and only accessible by the Town Administrator. She also advised that the internet connection for the Library had been monitored and had been stable for several weeks. It was agreed that no changes would be made at this time. The Commission discussed the use of Google Drive to allow access to materials for future meetings. The Administrative Clerk was asked to set up the Google Drive by June 30, 2022.

The Commission opened a public hearing on a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Woodman's Inc. to install a split rail fence at 119 Main Street. Ms. Maureen Woodman was in attendance and reviewed the application with the Commission. The Commission approved the issuance of a negative Determination with the condition that the fencing be placed only within currently grassed areas. On a motion made and duly seconded the Commission voted unanimously to issue a negative Determination with the condition discussed.

The Commission reviewed a Request for Certificate of Compliance for Order of Conditions DEP #021-0577. The Administrative Clerk advised the Request was made to close an open Order and the work

had been completed some time ago. The property owner was in attendance to answer questions from the Commission. Given the age of the project and the letter from the engineer certifying the work had been done in compliance with the Order of Conditions, the Commission approved the issuance of a complete Certificate of Compliance. On a motion made and duly seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to issue a complete Certificate of Compliance.

The Commission opened a public hearing on a Notice of Intent filed by Christina Gilbertson of Hi Rok Real Estate Trust to construct six (6) paddocks including clearing and re-grading, a stormwater basin with forebay and planting of a screening evergreen border at 106 Choate Street. Ms. Mary Rimmer of Rimmer Environmental Consulting and Mr. Scott Laffey of Laffey Construction were in attendance to present the project to the Commission. The Commission expressed concerns regarding the clearing of a forested area and requested that a site visit be scheduled. A site visit was scheduled for June 3, 2022 at 9 AM. Ms. Rimmer requested that the hearing be continued. On a motion made and duly seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to continue the public hearing to June 7, 2022.

The Commission continued a public hearing on a Notice of Intent filed by Red Barn Architecture to renovate an existing barn including new addition, parking area, walkways, patio and landscaping at 6 Main Street. The Administrative Clerk presented the applicant's letter requesting that the application be withdrawn. On a motion made and duly seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the request to withdraw the application and to close the public hearing.

The Commission had an informal discussion with Mr. Thomas DeMeo of 35 Water Street regarding a proposal to maintain a clamshell beach. Mr. DeMeo addressed the Commission and provided a history of the beach and how the clamshells had been placed there by shelling activities. He advised that the beach had started to erode and requested guidance from the Commission on the replacement of the clamshells with 6-7 yards of purchased shells. The Commission advised that more information would be needed and the project would require a filing for the Commission to formally review the proposal. Mr. DeMeo advised he would research the project further. No action by the Commission was needed at this time.

The Administrative Clerk presented a request to continue from the applicant's representative, Mr. John Judd of Gateway Consulting. Mr. Judd was available and advised that the revised plans for the relocation of the storage building had not been finalized. The Commission agreed to continue the hearing to the meeting of June 7, 2022. On a motion made and duly seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to continue the public hearing to June 7, 2022.

The Commission discussed the candidate for the position of Agent. Upon the recommendation of the Commissioners who had been in attendance for the interview, it was agreed to issue an offer letter which was modified and approved for issuance. On a motion made and duly seconded, the Commission voted to issue the offer letter as drafted to Mr. David Tessien.

Commissioner Thomas Barrieau asked to address the Commission on a matter not on the agenda related to his recent appointment to the Strategic Planning Committee. He advised the Commission he had been working on sections of the Strategic Plan previously drafted by Chairman Michael Burke prior to his resignation and reviewed these portions. The Commission advised that this material had not previously been submitted and could not be fully reviewed and commented on at this time.

Commissioner Barrieau was asked to request additional time from the Strategic Planning Committee to allow the Commission to review and comment on those sections which would ultimately impact the resources of the Commission. Commissioner Barrieau agreed to present the request at the Committee's next meeting.

The Commission discussed the appointment of Commissioner Clifford Ageloff and Commissioner Kevin Cook as co-Chairs. On a motion made and duly seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to appoint Commissioner Ageloff and Commissioner Cook as co-Chairs.

Commissioner Sanderson left the meeting at 8:50 PM. Commissioner Sanderson was logged in on the remote platform at 9:03 PM.

The Commission held a brief discussion on management of meetings and other Commission business including, but not limited to, managing inquiries submitted to the office, running of meetings, and communication relating to committee liaisons. The discussion was tabled until the Agent could be present.

There being no further business, on a motion made and duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved: Essex Conservation Commission

Prepared by: Deborah Cunningham, Administrative Clerk