



Wellesley Town Offices
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**Town of Wellesley
Wetlands Protection Committee (WPC)
Meeting Minutes
April 22nd, 2021**

Meeting Location:
Online Meeting

Voted to Approve on May 13, 2021

Members Present: Richard Howell, Chair; Peter Jones, Vice Chair; Jim McLaren; Ellie McLane; Jay McHale, NRC Liaison

Members Not Present: John Adams, Secretary

Staff Present: Julie Meyer, Wetlands Administrator (WA)

Guests: Linda Lee, Diana Sun, Molly and Nevin Fox, Scott Henderson, Reid Parker, Brian Nelson, Brandon Schmitt; NRC Director, Elizabeth Svedlund, Jonas Svedlund, Karon Skinner Catrone, Nancy Westenberg, Patrick Garner, Annie Ott, Eben Scanlon, Tom Ryder, David Hancox, Heather Conway, Patrick Conway, Jack Conway, David Gordon

6:30 pm - Official Start

6:30 pm Administrative Business (Admin)

1. Pete Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from 4/1/2021. Ellie McLane seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

6:45 pm Active Matters (Admin)

1. **75 Old Farm Road:** The WA issued a Notice of Violation and circulated a draft Enforcement Order for the removal of approximately 15 trees in the Buffer Zone (BZ) and outside of the 25-foot No Disturbance Zone (25-ft NDZ). The Enforcement Order outlined the restoration requirements for the Buffer Zone to restore lost habitat functions. Ellie McLane made a motion to ratify the EO. Jim McLaren seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

2. **26 Morses Pond Road:** The WA stated she was drafting and has circulated a revised EO for the project address due to the placement of multiple cubic yards of loose unconsolidated fill that was assessed during a recent site visit by the WA to have been placed just upgradient by the homeowner of the Buffer Zone to Morses Pond. The majority of the fill is likely upgradient of the boundary to the Buffer Zone; however, the WA stressed that the boundary is hard to determine due to the steep and curved topography, the texture of the fill is sandy and the material is of unknown origin, and the soil surface friable and thus the material should be considered to be within immediate jurisdictional concern. The potential violation will be revisited in the Public Hearing with the owners present for the discussion and decision.
3. **Guernsey Sanctuary:** The WA approved two Administrative Approval for the removal of invasive species by Lake Sabrina for two volunteer parties who requested permission to manage by hand tools.
4. **43 Glen Road:** The WA approved an Administrative Approval for the removal of one tree.
5. **1&7 Springdale Road:** The WA is waiting on the receipt of arborist letters before approving two Administrative Approvals for tree removals.
6. **17 Colby Road:** The WA and Pete Jones made a site visit for a trench dug within Riverfront Area which has since been filled back in. There are still some wildlife habitat functions that may have been inhibited by this work that will need to be assessed. The property owner submitted images of the restored altered area. A Certificate of Compliance has been issued for previous work, which will be evaluated to decide which plantings from the submitted As-Built will need to be restored.

7:05 pm Public Meeting Open (Chair)

Public Voice (Chair)

Richard Howell read ground rules for the call. No one called in for Public Voice.

7:00 pm Public Hearings and Meetings (Committee)

1. Pete Jones made a motion to delegate signatures of the Wetland Protection Committee (WPC) to the WA for this meeting. Jim McLaren seconded the motion and it was approved by a 4-0 vote.
2. **144 Glen Rd** (New RDA) – Applicant: R. Parker; reconstruct an existing retaining wall in RFA & within 25-ft NDZ.

People Present: Scott Henderson, Reid Parker

New Information: The plans for the project were presented.

Discussion: There are concerns from the Committee with the proximity of work to the wetland line. Will the trees in the planting bed held up by the retaining walls be at risk of damage from the proposed work? There are a few trees that could possibly take damage. Does the project need to be conditioned by an OOC for better monitoring? Are the tree roots in the planting bed causing it to fail? This would be discovered once the wall comes down, but it seems unlikely from the representatives opinion.

Decision: Ellie McLane made a motion for a positive determination of the RDA. Pete Jones seconded the motion and it passed by a 4-0 vote.

Action Items: WA to issue a Positive Determination.

3. **26 Morses Pond Rd** (cont. EO) - J. Du; sign EO.
People Present: Diana Sun

New Information: Nonpermitted work in the Buffer Zone was explained; fill was brought into the Buffer Zone.

Discussion: The delineation of the Resource Area is unsure and the location of the fill is unknown. Since the slope of the property is steep, the Board would like the extent of the fill to be removed.

Decision: Pete Jones made a motion to ratify the drafted Enforcement Order. Ellie McLane seconded the motion and it passed by a 4-0 vote.

Action Items: Property owner will remove the fill from the Buffer Zone by next week and provide the Board with a planting plan for the next meeting. The WA will go on a site visit with the property owner's landscaper on 4/23/2021 to evaluate next steps.

4. 265 Grove St (cont. EO) - L. Geisinger; sign EO.

People Present:

New Information:

Decision: Pete Jones made a motion to ratify the drafted Enforcement Order. Ellie McLane Seconded the motion and it passed by a 4-0 vote.

Action Items: WA to issue the EO.

5. 85 Ledgeways (cont. NOI) - MA-DEP #324-0970 - Applicant: V. Melfa; construct a new garage and patio, remove 5-10 trees, reconstruct existing driveway within BZ and 25-ft NDZ.

People Present: Brian Nelson

New Information: The draft Order was discussed.

Decision: Jim McLaren made a motion to close the hearing and approve the project and waiver for work in the 25-foot No Disturbance Zone, and waive the \$500 Waiver Fee under both the Wetlands Protection Act and the Wellesley Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Pete Jones seconded the motion and it passed by a 3-0 Vote. Ellie McLane abstained.

Action Items: WA to issue the OOC.

6. 53 Martin Rd (cont. RDA) – Applicant: W. Shribman; install 2 HVAC units within RFA & BZ.

People Present:

New Information:

Decision:

Action Item: Continued to 5/13/2021.

7. 15 The Waterways (cont. NOI) - MA-DEP #324-0964 - Applicant: M. Quinn; to construct a new SFH in RFA, BZ.

People Present:

New Information:

Decision:

Action Item: Continued to 5/13/2021.

8. 70 Grove St (New RDA) – Applicant: Town of Wellesley Natural Resources Commission; construct temporary fish ladder from sandbags within Fuller Brook

People Present: Brandon Schmitt; NRC Director

New Information: The project was presented.

Decision: Pete Jones made a motion for a positive determination of the RDA. Jim McLaren seconded the motion and it passed by a 4-0 vote.

Action Item: WA to issue a Negative Determination.

- 9. 56 Windsor Rd** (New NOI) – MA-DEP #324-0973 – Applicant: E. Svedlund; landscape maintenance with invasive removal, 4 tree removals, and removal of fencing in BZ & 25-ft NDZ.
People Present: Elizabeth Svedlund, Jonas Svedlund, Karon Skinner Catrone
New Information: The project was presented. The planting plan was also presented.
Discussion: Methods on how to ensure that the burning bush vegetation is managed (properly removed and do not reproduce elsewhere) were discussed. Pete Jones asked what was the arborist’s opinion on the health of the trees proposed to be removed. The arborist’s letter specified beetle boring insects were a concern to the trees’ safety. If removed, stumps will be retained.
An abutter shared concerns about the project’s proximity to the stream. Patrick Garner, a representative of the abutter, sent a memo to the WA and Committee who has concerns of the plans being from a sketch. The property lines and wetlands are not obvious or surveyed/marked. The line between BVW and upland is not provided, and the representative requests a survey to be submitted to the WPC. The Committee is unsure on whether the pine trees proposed for removal are within the 25-ft NDZ and are unsure on the age of the current-standing delineation. Would opinions on the project change based on the location of the 25-ft NDZ?
Decision: Continued
Action Items: Applicant to delineate and flag wetlands. The Committee and WA will conduct a site walk on 4/27/2021. If the delineation shows no difference from the submitted plans, the WA will draft an OOC. If the delineation shows substantial differences in the wetlands boundaries, the project will continue for discussion on 5/13/2021.
- 10. 3 Stevens St** (New RDA) – Applicant: A. & R. Ott; reconstruction of the existing front room and porch in RFA.
People Present: Annie Ott
New Information: The project was presented.

Decision: Ellie McLane made a motion for a negative determination of applicability. Jim McLaren seconded the motion and it passed by a 4-0 vote.

Action Item: WA to issue a Negative Determination.
- 11. 173 Winding River Rd** (New MPC) – MA-DEP #324-0931 - Applicant: E. Scanlon; relocate pool, add hardscaping, remove 9 trees, infiltrate stormwater in Buffer Zone.
People Present: Eben Scanlon, Tom Ryder
New Information: The adjustments requested were presented.
Decision: Pete Jones made a motion to approve the minor plan changes requested. Ellie McLane seconded the motion and it passed by a 4-0 vote.
Action Item: WA to issue a Minor Plan Change approval letter.
- 12. 190 Winding River Rd** (New NOI) - MA-DEP #324-0974 – Applicant: P. & H. Conway; construct a pool, fence, and landscaping, replace rotting steps, remove trees in RFA, BZ, & 25-ft NDZ.
People Present: David Hancox, Patrick Conway, Heather Conway, Jack Conway, David Gordon.
New Information: Project plans were presented.
Discussion: The control of multiflora rose along the riverbank was requested by the WPC.
Decision: Continued
Action Item: WA to draft an OOC with a special condition to include time of year restrictions for migrating species within the potential vernal pool habitat.

13. Great Plain Ave Roadway (New MPC) - MA-DEP #324-0939 - Applicant: Town of Wellesley DPW.

People Present: none

New Information: The changes to the plans were presented by the Wetlands Administrator (WA).

Decision: Ellie McLane made a motion to approve the minor plan changes requested. Pete Jones seconded the motion and it passed by a 4-0 vote.

Action Item: WA to issue a Minor Plan Change approval letter.

Any urgent items not reasonably anticipated prior to 48 hours of meeting.

9:35 pm Adjournment (Chairman):

Ellie McLane made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pete Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Abbreviations: RFA is Riverfront Area, BZ is Buffer Zone, & 25-ft NDZ is 25-foot No-Disturbance Zone.