

Town of Franklin



Conservation Commission

TOWN OF FRANKLIN
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**August 8, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Bill Batchelor called the above-captioned meeting to order this date at 7:00 PM. Members in attendance: Jeffrey Milne, Jeff Livingstone, Staci Dooney, Alan Wallach, Braden Rosenberg. Members absent: Paul Harrington. Also present: Bryan Taberner, Director of Planning and Community Development; Jen Delmore, Conservation Agent.

Commencement

Chairman Batchelor announced the meeting would be audio and video recorded.

Note: Documents presented to the Conservation Commission are on file.

Public Hearing – Continued - NOI – 1256 West Central Street

Ms. Delmore stated the applicant requested a continuance to the September 5, 2019 meeting at 7:00 PM.

There was a motion made by Alan Wallach to continue the public hearing for the NOI for 1256 West Central Street to September 5, 2019 at 7:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Milne and accepted with a vote of 6-0-0.

Public Hearing – Continued - ANRAD – Prospect Farms

Ms. Delmore stated the applicant requested a continuance to the August 22, 2019 meeting at 7:15 PM.

There was a motion made by Jeffrey Milne to continue the public hearing for the ANRAD for Prospect Farms to August 22, 2019 at 7:15 PM. The motion was seconded by Staci Dooney and accepted with a vote of 6-0-0.

Public Hearing – Continued - NOI – Margaret's Cove, Subdivision Modification

Ms. Delmore stated the applicant requested a continuance to the August 22, 2019 meeting at 7:10 PM.

There was a motion made by Braden Rosenberg to continue the public hearing for the NOI for Margaret's Cove, Subdivision Modification to August 22, 2019 at 7:10 PM. The motion was seconded by Alan Wallach and accepted with a vote of 6-0-0.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Minor Buffer Zone Activity: 161 Pine Street

Chairman Batchelor stated this MBZA is for tree removal due to impending danger.

Ms. Delmore stated she met the homeowner at the site yesterday. The trees proposed for removal are leaning over the house with branches coming down during wind and rain. She recommended approval with the condition of planting 12 to 16 Sweet Pepperbush within the 25 ft. buffer zone. She confirmed the owner said a crane will be used for the tree removal and stumps will be leveled to the ground.

There was a motion made by Jeff Livingstone to accept the MBZA for 161 Pine Street with the conditions of planting 12 to 16 Sweet Pepperbush within the 25 ft. buffer zone, a crane will be used, and the stumps will be leveled to the ground with no grinding.

Discussion: ► Ms. Kim Cooper, owner, stated there are two trees on the property that are on her lawn; she would like to grind those stumps to make a continuation of her lawn. ► Chairman Batchelor stated that could be done only if the two trees are outside the 25 ft. no-touch zone. ► Ms. Delmore stated the trees were right on the line. ► Commission members discussed the location of the two trees. ► Chairman Batchelor stated that since it is pre-disturbed, it is lawn, and it just touches the 25 ft. no-touch zone, the applicant should tell the tree service to be careful because the Agent is going to go to the site to look. ► Ms. Cooper confirmed she could grind the two tree stumps and then put soil over them to incorporate into the lawn. She confirmed the MBZA was for three years.

The motion was seconded by Alan Wallach and accepted with a vote of 6-0-0.

Permit Modifications/Extensions: None.

Certificate of Compliance: None.

Violations: None.

Minutes: July 11, 2019

There was a motion made by Jeffrey Milne to accept the meeting minutes for July 11, 2019. The motion was seconded by Staci Dooney and accepted with a vote of 6-0-0.

Discussion Items: Fast Track for BETA NOI Peer Review

Mr. Taberner stated it has come to their attention that it takes quite a bit longer for peer review to get started with the Conservation Commission than with the Planning Board. He explained that the Planning Board authorized the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) permission to authorize peer review. If it is not a big project, DPCD can determine that peer review is not needed. He would like to have the Commission vote to have all large NOIs and ANRADs peer reviewed automatically. If the project is smaller and peer review is not needed, then BETA can be told not to do it. As done for the Planning Board, the application goes to both the Planning Board and BETA at the same time. BETA can begin putting together a scope of work and a cost. Therefore, the BETA review can be started and possibly a preliminary report can be done before the first public hearing. This will allow the process to be faster and more streamlined. Currently, it can take four to five weeks to get BETA started. He stated this new procedure would be put in the Commission's documents to alert applicants to submit their applications to BETA. He noted the Commission can try this method and if they do not like it, they can change it. He stated the ideal situation would be for the Planning Board and Conservation Commission to follow the same process for BETA review.

Chairman Batchelor stated he would not put a size on it and would give the Conservation Agent and DPCD the ability to fast track BETA reviews that they deem necessary based on the scope of the project.

Mr. Taberner explained that stipulating the review on all projects may be easier and then if the project is small enough, the department can determine a review is not necessary. He stated most times it is a dual process; if it goes to BETA for the Planning Board, it needs to go to BETA for Conservation Commission if wetlands are involved.

Commission members discussed the proposed fast track process.

Chairman Batchelor stated this process would expedite projects.

There was a motion made by Braden Rosenberg to accept the recommendation for the fast track for BETA NOI peer review by the Conservation Agent and DPCD as discussed. The motion was seconded by Staci Dooney and accepted with a vote of 6-0-0.

Chair and Commission Member Comments: None.

Executive Session: None.

There was a motion made by Braden Rosenberg to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Milne and accepted with a vote of 6-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary

