

Town of Franklin



Conservation Commission

**August 26, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

As stated on the agenda, due to the concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus, this meeting will be conducted as a remote/virtual Conservation Commission meeting. In an effort to ensure citizen engagement and comply with open meeting law regulations, citizens will be able to dial into the meeting using the provided phone number, or citizens can participate by using the Zoom link provided on the agenda. This meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, for citizens wishing to attend in person.

Commencement

Chair Batchelor called the above-captioned meeting to order this date at 7:00 PM as a remote/virtual/in-person meeting. Members in attendance: William Batchelor, Jeffrey Milne, Jeff Livingstone, Patrick Gallagher (via Zoom), Andrew Mazzuchelli. Members absent: Paul Harrington. Also present: Jen Delmore, Conservation Agent.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Minor Buffer Zone Activity: 9 Mount Street

Ms. Delmore stated that this application is for the removal of 14 hazardous trees. All but one tree are ash trees that have been infested with the emerald ash borer and are in close proximity to the house and driveway. She stated that she performed a site visit on August 9, 2021, and determined the trees are at least over 50' from the wetland edge. She recommended approval with the conditions that the trees are to be cut flush with the ground or stump to remain, the root system is not to be removed, and all debris is to be disposed of offsite.

Mr. Gary Robinson, applicant, confirmed the root bed should remain.

There was a motion made by Jeff Livingstone to approve the MBZA for 9 Mount Street with the conditions that the trees are to be cut flush with the ground or stump to remain and the root system is not to be removed. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Milne and accepted with a roll call vote of 5-0-0. Roll Call Vote: Milne-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Gallagher-Yes; Mazzuchelli-Yes; Batchelor-Yes.

Permit Modifications/Extensions: None.

Certificates of Compliance: 370 Prospect Street, CE159-1187

Ms. Karon Skinner Catrone, wetland consultant, addressed the Commission. This Order of Conditions was for the construction of a single-family house. Only a small portion of the house, the deck, and the yard were within the 100' buffer zone to wetlands. She stated that she did an inspection a few weeks ago and supplied the Commission with letters and an as-built plan; the lot is in compliance and stabilized. She stated that the debris Ms. Delmore requested to be removed has been removed.

Ms. Delmore recommended the issuance of a complete Certificate of Compliance.

There was a motion made by Jeff Livingstone to approve the complete Certificate of Compliance for 370 Prospect Street, CE159-1187. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Milne and accepted with a roll call vote of 5-0-0. Roll Call Vote: Milne-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Gallagher-Yes; Mazzuchelli-Yes; Batchelor-Yes.

Certificates of Compliance: 42 Meadowlark Lane, CE159-1215

Ms. Delmore stated that this Order of Conditions for was a Town project to install an infiltration basin at the end of Meadowlark Lane to improve water quality from stormwater runoff. She stated that she performed a site visit on August 24, 2021. The area is stable and the herbaceous layer is growing vigorously. She recommended issuance of a complete Certificate of Compliance.

There was a motion made by Patrick Gallagher to approve the complete Certificate of Compliance for 42 Meadowlark Lane, CE159-1215. The motion was seconded by Andrew Mazzuchelli and accepted with a roll call vote of 5-0-0. Roll Call Vote: Milne-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Gallagher-Yes; Mazzuchelli-Yes; Batchelor-Yes.

Certificates of Compliance: 1256 West Central Street, CE159-1206

Ms. Delmore stated that the applicant submitted a request for continuance to the second meeting in September.

Mr. Livingstone confirmed that work would not be continuing at the site. Chair Batchelor noted that the applicant was told to not utilize the 25' no-touch area for construction of the turnaround. He requested that Ms. Delmore tell the applicant to be present in person or via Zoom at the September 23rd meeting. Ms. Delmore explained that the 1256 West Central Street project is a parking lot expansion; she noted that Chair Batchelor is discussing the wrong project. Chair Batchelor requested his comments be removed from the record.

There was a motion made by Jeff Livingstone to continue the Certificate of Compliance for 1256 West Central Street, CE159-1206, to September 23, 2021. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Milne and accepted with a roll call vote of 5-0-0. Roll Call Vote: Milne-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Gallagher-Yes; Mazzuchelli-Yes; Batchelor-Yes.

Chair Batchelor stated that he still requests the applicant to be at the September 23, 2021 meeting.

Violations/Enforcement: 455 Maple Street - update

Ms. Delmore reviewed that this violation was dealt with through an Enforcement Order on July 15, 2021. The Commission required the homeowner to submit a Notice of Intent for the mature trees that were cut without a permit and any restoration of the 25' buffer zone area that may be necessary. The homeowner, Mr. Pomarico, submitted an update to the Commission stating that the wetlands have been flagged, and he is working with Goddard Consulting and Guerriere and Halnon to put together a plan and Notice of Intent packet. As he did not get the NOI in on time, the homeowner is requesting an extension to September 7, 2021.

Minutes: July 29, 2021

There was a motion made by Jeff Livingstone to approve the meeting minutes for July 29, 2021. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Milne and accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0-0. Roll Call Vote: Milne-not asked to vote; Livingstone-not asked to vote; Gallagher-Yes; Mazzuchelli-Yes; Batchelor-Yes.

Discussion Items: Earth Day

Ms. Delmore stated that the spreadsheet on the Google Drive has been updated. She stated that Mr. Gallagher wanted to discuss responsibilities of who is doing what. Chair Batchelor reviewed the spreadsheet and discussed/confirmed the individual responsible for each item on the list. Mr. Livingstone recalled a banner used in the past. Ms. Delmore stated that she would check in the department office to see if there is a banner

from the past; if not, one needs to be obtained. Mr. Mazzuchelli stated that he has a call into Starbucks; he spoke with the manager of Big Y who asked that he submit a request through their website. Discussion commenced on items provided by Big Y in the past. Chair Batchelor stated that a thank you letter from Town Administrator Jamie Hellen will be needed after the event in order to give recognition to the sponsors. He requested that Mr. Gallagher be included in the recognition letter process. Discussion commenced and responsibilities confirmed on gloves, trash bags, flyers, press outreach, social media announcements, and coordination with the high school for the event. Chair Batchelor stated that he would supply the gloves and bring a first aid kit. Mr. Livingstone suggested that it would be good to give flyers to the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and the Franklin Downtown Partnership. Ms. Delmore stated that she would let the Commission know when the flyers are ready. Chair Batchelor stated that the Commission must keep their eye on the spread of the coronavirus and at any point be prepared to shut down the event if the governor decides that group events are not necessary due to increasing spread of the virus.

Chair and Commission Comments

Mr. Gallagher mentioned the tragedy that occurred in Kabul today; it is difficult news to see. He requested a moment of silence in memory of the service members and civilians that died today in Afghanistan.

Chair Batchelor requested a vote of the Commission be taken to formally honor those who served and those who paid the ultimate price in Afghanistan. A roll call vote of 5-0-0 was taken. Roll Call Vote: Milne-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Gallagher-Yes; Mazzuchelli-Yes; Batchelor-Yes.

Executive Session: None.

There was a motion made by Jeff Livingstone to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Milne and accepted with a roll call vote of 5-0-0. Roll Call Vote: Milne-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Gallagher-Yes; Mazzuchelli-Yes; Batchelor-Yes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary