

Town of Franklin



Conservation Commission

September 9, 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, Paul Harrington (via Zoom), Jeff Livingstone, Patrick Gallagher (via Zoom), Andrew Mazzuchelli, Richard Johnson. Absent: None. 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: Eagle Scout DelCarte Kiosk Project

Scout Zach Beaupre addressed the Commission for a project proposing to add five additional trail mapping kiosks to the DelCarte trail circuit. He stated that he is almost done with the planning stage; he must get his permit approved. He explained that he completed the required maps, added the buffer zone lines, and marked the spots where he would be adding kiosks.

Ms. Delmore stated that she walked the trails on August 17, 2021, with Mr. Beaupre and his mother to confirm good locations for additional mapping and five “you are here” markers. She noted that spots not requiring any tree or shrub clearing and were at least 25’ from the edge of wetlands were picked. She recommended approval.

Mr. Beaupre confirmed he planned to be completed with the project in November. Chair Batchelor stated his continuing concern is vandalism; therefore, he hopes the design and installation is as sturdy as possible. Mr. Beaupre stated that he will be working with his father to make the structures as sturdy as possible. Commission members thanked Mr. Beaupre for taking on this project.

There was a motion made by Jeffrey Milne to approve the MBZA for the Eagle Scout DelCarte Kiosk Project. The motion was seconded by Andrew Mazzuchelli and accepted with a roll call vote of 7-0-0. Roll Call Vote: Milne-Yes; Harrington-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Gallagher-Yes; Mazzuchelli-Yes; Johnson-Yes; Batchelor-Yes.

Permit Modifications/Extensions: None.

Certificates of Compliance: Villages at Oak Hill, Washington Street, SE159-739, SE159-921, and SE159-1164

Mr. Andrew Thibault of Goddard Consulting, representing the applicant, addressed the Commission for a project of multiple new roads and buildings off Washington Street which started in 2004 and has continued under three different DEP file numbers due to the previous ones expiring and work not being finished.

Ms. Delmore stated that it was a very good enhancement plan. She recommended approval of the enhancement plan and confirmed that the applicant should be asked to return to the Commission for a Certificate of Compliance once the plan is completed. Mr. Livingstone requested that Mr. Thibault provide a summary of the Wetland Replication Enhancement Plan to the Commission. Chair Batchelor did not ask Mr. Thibault to provide a summary of the plan.

There was a motion made by Andrew Mazzuchelli to approve the enhancement plan and then the applicant will return to the Commission for a Certificate of Compliance once the plan is completed for Villages at Oak Hill, Washington Street, SE159-739, SE159-921, and SE159-1164. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Milne. **Discussion:** Mr. Livingstone asked who has read the enhancement plan as this is the first time that he has seen it. Ms. Delmore stated that the plan was part of the electronic meeting packet provided last Thursday. She stated that she would prefer Mr. Thibault provide a summary of the plan. Mr. Livingstone stated that he could abstain from the vote, or Mr. Thibault could provide a general summary of the plan so he would know what he was voting on. Chair Batchelor stated that he has read the plan and does not have difficulty with it. He asked the Commission members if they would like to have a brief presentation of the plan by Mr. Thibault. Mr. Gallagher stated that he agreed with Mr. Livingstone that a brief summary from the applicant would be preferred. Mr. Harrington agreed that he would like to hear a presentation; Mr. Milne also agreed.

Mr. Thibault provided an overview of the enhancement plan dated September 1, 2021. He stated that the plan was in response to four main areas of concern after construction; the plan was provided in the meeting packet. He stated that he walked the site with Ms. Delmore on August 18, 2021. He stated that the first area of concern was Innsbruck Way. He discussed that some mulch had spilled over; therefore, this area will need to be raked back to the limit of work. The second area of concern is at the intersection of Dante Avenue and Vail Avenue. He noted that the plantings were not properly installed; the planting plan proposes some maple trees in the back and shrubs surrounding the decks. The third area of concern is Vail Avenue edge of pond. He stated that it appears the area has been mowed, and there is a bench located in the area. He stated that he thinks people may have mowed the area and removed some of the plantings to enhance visibility. He recommended the area no longer be mowed or disturbed and signage installed indicating such. As well, proposed plantings should be installed in the fall. He noted the bench could remain to allow for a small visibility area. The fourth area of concern is Tuscany Drive and adjacent wet meadow. He noted the shrubby and tree layer are not there. The proposed plan will add significantly more into the area. He noted that for these areas of concerns, the problems included that the installations were not done correctly, not done at all, or plants were moved during development that were not supposed to be removed. He discussed that this plan will get each area back into compliance; then, the applicant will request a Certificate of Compliance. He confirmed that signage would be installed.

Ms. Delmore noted that the enhancement bank and the area behind #70 and #72 may benefit from signage, as well. Mr. Gallagher noted that there were a few items from the original plan that were not carried through. Mr. Thibault responded that the plans were not carried through due to homeowners, which signage would help, and possibly some plantings may not have been done properly. Mr. Gallagher suggested ongoing monitoring after the enhancement plan is applied.

There was another motion made by Andrew Mazzuchelli to approve the enhancement plan and then the applicant will return to the Commission for a Certificate of Compliance once the plan is completed for Villages at Oak Hill, Washington Street, SE159-739, SE159-921, and SE159-1164. The motion was seconded

by Jeff Livingstone and accepted with a roll call vote of 7-0-0. Roll Call Vote: Milne-Yes; Harrington-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Gallagher-Yes; Mazzuchelli-Yes; Johnson-Yes; Batchelor-Yes.

Violations/Enforcement: None.

Minutes: None.

Discussion Items: DelCarte Earth Day Update

Mr. Gallagher provided an update for the DelCarte Earth Day. He stated that tables, chairs, and a pop-up tent are confirmed. Mr. Mazzuchelli confirmed that Big Y will provide a \$50 gift card with which the Commission can purchase the baked goods, and Starbucks will provide a travel box of coffee and volunteers to assist. He stated that he told the two sponsors that they would come before the Town Council at a future date to receive a proclamation and thank you. Mr. Gallagher stated that he has not yet contacted the Downtown Partnership. Chair Batchelor stated that the Franklin Observer did a spot on this event. He stated that the All About Franklin blog on Facebook has 43 responses indicating how wonderful this event is. He stated that he would post another notice on the blog during the first week in October.

Ms. Delmore provided an update on the T-shirt ordered and stated it is just about to be submitted; there will be 20 of each size small, medium, and large.

Mr. Gallagher thanked Tyler for coordinating the T-shirts. He stated that supplies such as gloves and trash bags are all set. He stated that he will reach out to Allegra Printing regarding the banner. Ms. Delmore stated that she would check with Jen regarding the flyer and noted the sponsors' names will be on the flyer. Mr. Livingstone asked if the Commission could have a booth at the Harvest Festival on October 2, 2021 in order to spread the word about the Earth Day event. Chair Batchelor noted that although he did not walk the trails, he did not see much trash at DelCarte when he recently visited. Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Mazzuchelli stated that all details are getting confirmed, and they will work to finalize details for the next meeting.

Chair and Commission Comments: None.

Executive Session: None.

There was a motion made by Jeffrey Milne to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Andrew Mazzuchelli and accepted with a vote of 7-0-0. No roll call vote taken.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary