

Town of Franklin



Conservation Commission

**December 2, 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, Andrew Mazzuchelli, Patrick Gallagher (via Zoom), Richard Johnson (via Zoom). Absent: Jeff Livingstone. Also present: Becca Solomon, Conservation Agent; Tyler Paslaski, Administrative Assistant.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing – NOI – Washington Street Map 304 Lot 064

Ms. Solomon stated that the applicant requested a continuance of the public hearing to January 6, 2022.

There was a motion made by Jeffrey Milne to continue the public hearing for the NOI for Washington Street Map 304 Lot 064 to January 6, 2022, at 7:01 PM. The motion was seconded by Andrew Mazzuchelli and accepted with a roll call vote of 5-0-0. Roll Call Vote: Milne-Yes; Gallagher-Yes; Mazzuchelli-Yes; Johnson-Yes; Batchelor-Yes.

Public Hearing – NOI – 900 Washington Street

Ms. Solomon stated that the applicant requested a continuance of the public hearing to the next meeting.

There was a motion made by Jeffrey Milne to continue the public hearing for the NOI for 900 Washington Street to December 16, 2021, at 7:01 PM. The motion was seconded by Andrew Mazzuchelli and accepted with a roll call vote of 5-0-0. Roll Call Vote: Milne-Yes; Gallagher-Yes; Mazzuchelli-Yes; Johnson-Yes; Batchelor-Yes.

Public Hearing – Continued – NOI – 10 Populatic Street

Ms. Solomon stated that the applicant requested a continuance of the public hearing to the next meeting.

There was a motion made by Jeffrey Milne to continue the public hearing for the NOI for 10 Populatic Street to December 16, 2021, at 7:02 PM. The motion was seconded by Andrew Mazzuchelli and accepted with a roll call vote of 5-0-0. Roll Call Vote: Milne-Yes; Gallagher-Yes; Mazzuchelli-Yes; Johnson-Yes; Batchelor-Yes.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Minor Buffer Zone Activity: 71 Charles River Drive

Ms. Solomon reviewed that the filing is for the removal of hazardous trees on the homeowner's property within the 50' to 100' buffer zone. The applicant is seeking to remove a twin trunk pine which has a history of branch failures and overhangs a pool. She stated that during her site visit on November 24, 2021, the applicant additionally mentioned wanting to remove a cluster of diseased ash trees also adjacent to the pool. The pine tree was measured to be 50.2' from the wetland, and the ash tree clusters were 70' to 75' from the wetland. She stated that a letter from a license tree professional was received. She recommended approving the application for removal of pine and ash trees with a condition to leave the stumps.

There was a motion made by Jeffrey Milne to approve the Minor Buffer Zone Activity for 71 Charles River Drive with a condition to leave the stumps. The motion was seconded by Andrew Mazzuchelli and accepted with a roll call vote of 5-0-0. Roll Call Vote: Milne-Yes; Gallagher-Yes; Mazzuchelli-Yes; Johnson-Yes; Batchelor-Yes.

Permit Modifications/Extensions: None.

Certificates of Compliance: None.

Violations/Enforcement: None.

Minutes: October 21, 2021, November 4, 2021, and November 18, 2021

There was a motion made by Jeffrey Milne to approve the meeting minutes for October 21, 2021. The motion was seconded by Andrew Mazzuchelli and accepted with a roll call vote of 5-0-0. Roll Call Vote: Milne-Yes; Gallagher-Yes; Mazzuchelli-Yes; Johnson-Yes; Batchelor-Yes.

There was a motion made by Jeffrey Milne to approve the meeting minutes for November 4, 2021. The motion was seconded by Andrew Mazzuchelli and accepted with a roll call vote of 5-0-0. Roll Call Vote: Milne-Yes; Gallagher-Yes; Mazzuchelli-Yes; Johnson-Yes; Batchelor-Yes.

There was a motion made by Jeffrey Milne to approve the meeting minutes for November 18, 2021. The motion was seconded by Andrew Mazzuchelli and accepted with a roll call vote of 5-0-0. Roll Call Vote: Milne-Yes; Gallagher-Yes; Mazzuchelli-Yes; Johnson-Yes; Batchelor-Yes.

Discussion Item: May 2022 Meetings - Reschedule or Relocate

Ms. Solomon explained that due to the Council Chambers being reserved for the Budget Hearings on May 12 and May 26, 2022, the Conservation Commission needs to either relocate the meetings to the Training Room or reschedule the meetings which were previously approved for those dates.

Chair Batchelor stated that he would suggest relocating the meetings on May 12 and May 26, 2022, to the Training Room. Each Commission member was asked and agreed to relocating the May 12 and May 26, 2022, meetings to the Training Room on the 3rd Floor of Town Hall.

Discussion Item: DPW Removal of Man-Made Dams at DelCorte

Ms. Solomon explained that the DPW has requested that the Conservation Commission approve the removal of some currently defunct man-made dams at the DelCorte reservoirs which have been causing continuing problems with flooding when blocked by beavers. The DPW proposes that removing the dams will remove the hazard and encourage the beavers to build their dams in other parts of the pond which

may be less damaging. As the Conservation Commission manages the property, the DPW asked if the Commission would approve the work pending an NOI process. She stated that one location is near the railroad tracks, and the other location is on the northern side near the active bridge that can be walked across. Chair Batchelor noted that the dams the DPW requested removal of are defunct. Commission members asked questions and made comments regarding the location and removal of the dams. Chair Batchelor stated that he strongly recommended approval of the removal of the noted dams.

There was No Motion and No Second Made to approve the DPW Removal of Man-Made Dams at DelCorte pending an NOI. A roll call vote was taken of 5-0-0. Roll Call Vote: Milne-Yes; Gallagher-Yes; Mazzuchelli-Yes; Johnson-Yes; Batchelor-Yes.

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 roll call vote of 3-0-0. Roll Call Vote: Milne-Not asked to vote; Gallagher-Yes; Mazzuchelli-Not asked to vote; Johnson-Yes; Batchelor-Yes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary