

PLYMOUTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

508-747-1620 x10139

Minutes

April 25, 2023

Present: Randy Parker; Chair, Ann Burnham; Vice Chair and Commissioners, Karen Edwards, Sean Andersen, Paul Churchill, and Jamie Carpenter.

Absent: Lucas Nichols and Richard Vacca

Conservation Staff: Patrick Farah

Recording Secretary: Michele Rowe, Rachel St.Croix

This meeting may include topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Town's website, at <https://www.plymouth-ma.gov/conservation-commission>

80 Cornish Field Road

Parcel ID: 069-000-087-001

Pinewoods Camp, Inc.

Environmental Consultants & Restoration, LLC

A Request for Determination of Applicability for the proposed construction of a wooden platform deck located within the buffer zone to the Bordering Vegetated Wetlands of Long Pond.

RDA

PCC-23-10R

The Commission received the following documentation for this review:

1. WPA Form 1 – Request for Determination of Applicability received March 30, 2023
2. Project Narrative
3. Pictures – location of the proposed platform deck
4. USGS Site Locus Map
5. FIRM Map
6. Priority Habitats of Rare Species, estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife & Certified Vernal Pools Map
7. Assessors' Abutter List Report dated April 25, 2019
8. Conservation Permitting Plan Pinewoods Camp, dated March 14, 2023, created by C. Larson
9. Email from NHESP Emily Holt

Brad Holmes was present as the representative for this project and presented the proposed plan to the Commission. The proposed plan includes constructing a deck with a seasonal screenhouse within the buffer zone. The deck will be located in an open space area that was created naturally by downed trees. No existing trees will be cut. Because this is an RDA, the project is exempt from the MESA review per NHESP email from Emily Holt. "If all work (including all disturbance, material storage, staging, etc) is outside Priority Habitat, then no review is required. There is also not any requirement to file for work within a buffer to Priority Habitat."

Public Comment: Donald Williams – 42 Carters Bridge Road suggests keeping the snag for the birds.

Sean Anderson 1st motion to close the public hearing and issue a Negative Determination of Applicability.
Paul Churchill 2nd motion
Voted Unanimously 6-0 at 7:13 pm

41 Lake View Boulevard
Parcel ID:124-000-001-170

SE57-3306
PCC-23-15

Jonathan Reed
Environmental Consultants & Restoration, LLC

A Notice of Intent for a proposed deck replacement associated with stairway, railings and footings.

The Commission received the following documentation for this review:

1. MassDEP NOI File Number
2. WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent Received March 30, 2023
3. Project Narrative
4. Wetland Delineation Memo dated June 24, 2022, from Brad Holmes at Environmental Consulting & Restoration, LLC
5. FEMA FIRM
6. USGS Site Locus Map
7. Priority Habitats of Rare Species, Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife & Certified Vernal Pools Map
8. Assessors' Office Abutter List Report dated March 21, 2023
9. Zoning Application & Notice of Intent Plan, prepared by Land Management Systems, Inc., stamped by J. Randolph Parker, Jr., PLS, dated February 1, 2023

Brad Holmes, Environmental Consultants & Restoration, LLC was present as the representative for this project and presented the proposed plan to the Commission. The proposed plan includes 2 structures. The deck structure within the 35' buffer zone shall follow the same footprint as existing deck. Karen Edwards posed a question as to if footings were being built. Brad will try to use existing footings if they are structurally sound. He will submit a waiver to work within the 35' zone. Paul Churchill added that he likes that the property and structure are being maintained. Patrick Farah recommended a waiver and spoke to adding native plants to mitigate any disturbed areas.

Public Comment: Jonathan Reed, 41 Lake View Boulevard supports the addition of replacement vegetation.

Karen Edwards 1st motion to close the public hearing and issue the standard Order of Conditions.
Sean Anderson 2nd motion
Voted Unanimously (5 – 0 – 1 recuse -Randy Parker) 7:31 pm

Lot 51A Saquish Beach
Parcel ID: 132-000B-051A-000

SE57-3307
PCC-23-16

David & Kristen Diamond
Merrill Engineers & Land Surveyors

A Notice of Intent for a Repair and Replace the existing Septic system and dune nourishment.

Merrill Engineers & Land Surveyors requested a continuance for May 2, 2023.

Paul Churchill 1st motion to continue the hearing to May 2, 2023
Ann Burnham 2nd motion

Voted Unanimously (6 - 0) 7:33 pm

DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE:

41 Doten Road

Parcel ID: 042-000-043-005

Paul D. Moyer

A Request for Determination of Non-Significance for proposed excavation down approximately 3.5 feet below existing grade and 5 feet into the 100' buffer, to allow for two windows in the west basement wall of the house.

The Commission received the following documentation for this review:

1. Letter addressed to Rich Vacca, Conservation Planner dated April 20, 2023
2. Certified Plot Plan, prepared by Merrill Engineers & Land Surveyors, stamped by Deanna Boumitri, PLS dated September 26, 2022
3. Pictures of property

There was no representative on hand to present. A letter was sent describing the scope of the work. The Board supports the project and sees no issues with adding the window wells.

Paul Churchill 1st motion to approve
Jamie Carpenter 2nd motion

Voted Unanimously 6-0

MISCELLANEOUS:

Don Williams, President, Water Quality Co-Chair of the Herring Ponds Watershed Association presented a Water Quality Presentation addressing environmental concerns.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ACTION ITEMS:

Minutes: April 18, 2023

Ann Burnham 1st motion to approve the minutes for as submitted.
Randy Parker 2nd motion
Voted Unanimously (6 - 0)

ADJOURN MEETING:

Ann Burham 1st motion to adjourn at 8:23 pm

Randy Parker 2nd motion

Voted Unanimously 6-0

These minutes approved on: May 2, 2023

Plymouth Water Issues

Don Williams, Organic/Polymer Chemist
Aspiring Water Chemist
April 25, 2023, Conservation Commission



Plymouth's Water Supply

- Organic/Polymer Chemistry Background
- NOT a Water Chemist But I Have Learned a Lot
- Concerned About Plymouth's Water Future
- Share What I Know With You
- Together We Can Make a Difference

What I Have Learned About Plymouth's Water Supply

- Plymouth-Carver Sole Source Aquifer
- Remnant of Last Glacier, 10 – 12,000 Years Ago
- 140 Square Miles
- Serves About 200,000 People, 7 Towns
- 500 Billion Gallons
- “Sole” is Key Word
- Protection is Important

Plymouth's Needs

- Growth Requires New Sources of Water
- Wells Are Expensive – Multi-Million \$
- New Wells Can Affect Private Wells, Ponds
- Eric Cody – Importance of Water Conservation
- Some Experts Predict Water, Not Energy Limits
- Concern? Plymouth Not Pro-Active Enough

Plymouth's Liabilities

- Water Source Not Unlimited, Subject to Pollution
- Water Source Subject to Saltwater Intrusion
- Other Communities Can Pollute “Our” Aquifer
- 80 Pounds PFA's in Aquifer, Unsuitable for Drinking (6 ppt => 24 Pounds!)
- More Than 400 Ponds Needing Protection
- Need For More, Expensive Sewers

Plymouth's Pollutant

- Phosphorus
- #1 Source – Septic (→ Sewer, \$\$\$)
- #2 Source – Sediment (→ Alum, \$\$)
- #3 Source – Runoff (→ Buffers)

HPWA's Consultant Findings

- Partner With DMEA Water Quality Plan Study
- Iron in Soil Retards Phosphorus Migration to Water, Aquifer
- Plymouth Growth Spurt in 80s, 90s Saturated Iron in Soil
- Phosphorus Faster Path to Groundwater, Ponds, Wetlands, Aquifer
- More Pond Will Experience Pollution

What Can We Control?

- Sewer, Sediment (Alum) \$\$
- Runoff – Maintain Wetland Buffer
- Trees Are Important – Slow Erosion
- Cutting Trees is Preventable
- Removing Sand is Preventable

How Can We Control? – Who?

- Sewer, Sediment (Alum) \$\$
- Runoff – Maintain Wetland Buffer
- Trees Are Important – Slow Erosion
- Cutting Trees is Preventable
- Removing Sand is Preventable

How Can We Control? -- Enforce

- Plymouth Bylaws Prohibit Clearing Land Within 35 Feet of Wetland
- Formerly – Conservation Dept -- Private Property Enforcement
- Formerly – DMEA – Trespassers, Plymouth Land Enforcement
- Presently – Unclear Whose Responsibility

What if We Do Nothing?

- Pond Pollution – Decreased Property Values and Tax Revenues
- Aquifer Pollution – Expensive Water, End of Growth

The Ask

- Conserve Water
- Plan for Sewer, Sewer Costs
- Provide for On-Call Monitors
- Enforce Clear Cutting Violators
- Stop Mining Sand and Gravel

Contact Information

- Don Williams

President, Water Quality Committee Co-Chair

Herring Ponds Watershed Association

508 833-4355

donald_r_williams2003@yahoo.com



Thank You!

Questions?

