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Conservation Commission

Minutes

February 20, 2024

Members Present: Dr. Lori Chekal, Chair; Tomas Sanchez, Vice Chair, Randy Mason, Melissa Campbell, James Cheney.

Staff Present: Jennifer Ryan, Administrative Assistant

Dr. Lori Chekal, Chair, called the Tuesday, February 20, meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 6:00 PM, by reading the following statement:

On March 29, 2023, Governor Healey signed into law the extension of the temporary provisions of Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, to continue until March 31, 2025. Specifically, this further extension allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide "adequate, alternative" access to remote meetings. Members of the public attending this virtual meeting will be allowed to make comments, during the portion of the hearing designated for public comment. The Zoom meeting information is available on the Conservation Commission page on the Town Website.

The Zoom meeting ID is 843 1681 5973

Further information and the plans for each agenda item may be found on the Town Website
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Minutes

1/11/24 meeting minutes.

Motion made by James Cheney, seconded by Tomas Sanchez to approve minutes.
Voted 5-0 to approve.

Certificate of Compliance

335 Park Street (245-444) Cota Funeral Home. The board members were able to go out and visit the site. There were no comments or issues. Certificate of Compliance was recommended.

Motion made by Randy Mason, seconded by Tomas Sanchez to issue a Certificate of Compliance. Voted 5-0 to approve.

Request for Extension

239 North Street (245-1642) Construction is currently ongoing and the applicant requires additional time. No one present to request the extension. Project will be heard on Tuesday, March 19th, 2024.

Public Hearings

Chestnut Street over Ipswich River Bridge (245-1758) Replacement of a failing double barrel corrugated metal pipe bridge, 14' span each. The replacement will include a 48' clear single span bridge, with natural substrate bottom, a precast deck, abutments and wing walls. The project will include utility relocation and a sidewalk. A continuance was requested by Sydney Lewis via email due to wetland impacts from the utilities which are expected to change. The owner of the utility poles would like to revise where they are relocated for construction.

Wright Street (245-xxxx). Replacement of a septic system and a proposed addition to an existing single family dwelling. Luke J. Roy, LJR Engineering and Sean O'Halloran, home owner, were both present. Luke Roy stated that this is for a proposed replacement of a septic system, as well as an addition to an existing single-family dwelling. There's a bordering vegetative wetland resource area that was identified and delineated which is just beyond the rear property line. A portion of the property is within the 100' buffer that was delineated. The proposed septic system would be in a similar location because it's really the only feasible spot for it due to site constraints. It is 50' from the edge of the wetlands at the closest point. There will be minimal grading and no retaining walls. The work for this system is within the existing lawn area so there will be no alteration to the buffer zone. Luke Roy spoke about the planned garage addition that will be to the left side of the home. This addition will be partially located within the wetland buffer, 86' from the wetlands at the closest point. The septic tank will be relocated to fit, with the addition, 10' from the foundation as required. The addition itself added some impervious to the buffer zone, but they are still quite a bit below the threshold at 7.9% impervious in the buffer. Mr. Roy continued to say that the septic design plan was approved by the Health Department, but, unfortunately there is no DEP# yet.

Melissa Campbell had some questions with regard to a shed being in the no disturb. She asked if they would be able to pull it out of the no disturb zone. Mr. Roy responded that they could work to correct that. Sean O'Halloran, homeowner, stated that it could be relocated out of the no disturb zone. Lori Chekal, Chair, informed the board that there could be no vote on this project due to the DEP# not having been issued. She suggested that a condition be added to the Order of Conditions regarding the replacement of the shed. This project will be continued until the March 19th, 2024 meeting due to the lack of the DEP#.

Adjourn

Tomas Sanchez moved, seconded by James Cheney, and voted 5-0 that the Conservation Commission adjourn the meeting at 6:27 PM.

Approved T E Sanchez Dated 3/20/2024