

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

## **HALIFAX CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

### **November 16, 2021**

A meeting of the Halifax Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, in Meeting Room #1, Second Floor, Town Hall. Kathy Evans opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Members present: Kathy Evans, Chris Hadorn, Edward Lane**

**Absent: Kimberley Cavicchi, Colleen Fiumara**

**Kathy Evans opened the meeting at 7:00pm**

#### **Hearings:**

##### **7:00PM – Notice of Intent – Pine Street Bridge**

Project Manager Chris Jones of Beta Group – the Design Engineers hired by the town – presented plans regarding the proposed replacement of the Pine Street Bridge which is a small concrete box culvert in deteriorated condition. The Town is seeking to replace it in the same location using grant money from Mass DOT which will help fund the project. The proposed plans include widening the span to conform to Massachusetts stream crossing standards and raising bridge to increase the openness ratio. The culvert will be supported by timber piles that will be driven into the soil. The culvert will be 3-sided with a natural bottom and a simulated stream bed using rock-filled material to fill in voids and bring up the streambed elevation so that it is solid and smooth. Sides will be raised up 1:1 slopes with small banks on the sides for wildlife and people to travel.

Chris Jones explained that the greatest environmental impact during this project concerns what to do with the water during construction. Consider the option of bypass pumping, but there is too much flow. Due to the unique shape of the channel and proximity to a cranberry bog and developed area, there is a dogleg in the river that would allow for a temporary bypass channel for the water to go through and allow for dry construction. Therefore, the application outlines approximate limits as to the area the contractor could use for a bypass channel. Since Beta Group does not design the temporary water control, they provide specifications and parameters for water control in the Notice of Intent, i.e.: must provide a channel that can accommodate a 2-year storm flow. For permitting purposes, the proposed plan also reflects a “worst case scenario” of potential but temporary environmental impacts associated with the area. The contractor may not need the entire area, and environmental impacts may be less. Once the new bridge is completed, the site will be restored to its original condition.

Edward Lane asked how long the project will take – specifically the redirected water flow. Chris Jones answered that the project is expected to take three to four months. Chris Hadorn asked when the project would begin. Chris Jones answered that the Town of Halifax wanted to advertise the project this winter and begin construction in spring.

Chris Jones noted that the original structure has provisions for flashboard to help control water flow for the cranberry bog. However, it is no longer in use as the cranberry bog operator built their own water control system and does not need the culvert for water control. Therefore, there are no provisions for the new structure to act as a water control structure.

Chris Hadorn asked if the timbers used to support the culvert would be 55 feet long and Chris Jones confirmed yes. Chris Hadorn expressed concern that area around the culvert was not wide enough to allow a pedestrian to move out of the way of traffic. Chris Jones explained that the roadway will be striped with two 10-foot lanes

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and 2-foot wide shoulders. Kathy Evans asked if the road would be open during the project. Chris Jones responded no, that the roadway will be closed during construction.

Chris Hadorn asked if there would be someone monitoring the project during heavy rains to ensure that the water flow was being successfully diverted. Chris Jones responded that Beta Group is on contract to provide the town with services but they are limited and suggested that regular monitoring of the channel would need to be a special condition. In addition, the DPW would most likely be monitoring the project regularly.

**Motion to approve the replacement of the Pine Street Bridge project as submitted.**

**Motion: Chris Hadorn**

**Second: Edward Lane**

**ALL in favor**

**7:10PM – 100 Palmer Mill Road (Extension approved and signed at prior meeting)**

**7:15PM – 1 First Ave – Emergency Tree Removal**

Homeowners requested emergency tree removal. Two trees were damaged during the recent storm and are uprooted and leaning onto another tree. Kathy performed a site visit and approved the Emergency Order to remove the trees. The homeowners have 30 days to file after-the-fact RDA and submit the filing fees which should have been received by December 11. Debbie to follow up with homeowners. Kathy would like to confirm when the trees have been removed so she can make another site visit.

**7:20PM – Signatures for bills payable:** Plympton/Halifax Express advertisements for wetlands permits regarding proposed projects at 620 Monponsett St., 57 Lake St., 7 Old Ocean Ave, and Pine Street Bridge

**Motion to pay bills.**

**Motion: Edward Lane**

**Second: Kimberley Cavicchi**

**ALL in favor**

**7:25PM –** Cesar proposed the benefits of holding Conservation Commission meetings in the Board of Selectmen's room on the first floor and explained effort to centralize the meetings at Town Hall. Cesar would like all boards to have access to technology for virtual and hybrid meetings, as well as having a meeting room equipped with cameras and microphones instead of Area 58 setting up recording equipment each time. It was acknowledged by all that the Selectmen's meeting day and time conflicts with Conservation, as both hold meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. Cesar said he will ensure that the technology the Conservation Commission needs for meetings will continue to be brought to Meeting Room #1. There was short conversation about Chris Hadorn needing a key fob to access the building and issues with accessing his town email. Edward Lane also requires assistance with his town email. Cesar asked Debbie to forward their contact information so he could resolve these issues.

**7:30PM – 31 Ocean Ave – Certificate of Compliance**

Edward Lane noted that he and Colleen Fiumara performed a site visit at the property. Kathy Evans expressed concern about the distance of the home from Monponsett Pond. Edward Lane confirmed that they did measurements on site. Kathy Evans explained that the Building Inspector has a copy of the As-built plans which

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show construction one foot closer to Monponsett Pond than the plans submitted to Conservation. Edward Lane responded that it would have been up to the Building Inspector. Kathy Evans noted that she expected the property owner to be present at the meeting and was surprised they were not. She then stated that the one-foot discrepancy was "close enough" because she was sure it was within the 11 feet allowed. Edward Lane and Chris Hadorn confirmed that they had no concerns.

**Motion to approve and sign Certificate of Compliance for 31 Ocean Ave.**

**Motion: Edward Lane**

**Second: Kimberley Cavicchi**

**ALL in favor.**

**Mail and Correspondence:**

None

**Open Comments:**

Kathy Evans and Edward Lane discussed meeting for a site visit at 0 Monponsett Street the following Monday.

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion: Edward Lane**

**Second: Kimberley Cavicchi**

**ALL in favor**

Respectfully submitted  
Digitally recorded by  
Deborah Ballem for  
Conservation Commission

Approved Date: 4-25-23

Kathy Evans 

Chris Hadorn \_\_\_\_\_

Edward Lane 

Colleen Fiumara \_\_\_\_\_

Kimberley Cavicchi 