

Maynard Conservation Commission Meeting
June 26, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.
195 Main Street, Finance Conference Room

Board Members Present: James Bullis – Chairman, Ellen Greendale, John Dwyer, Karen O’Reilly, Andrew Snyder (arrived at 7:22 p.m.)

Others Present: Gene Crouch – VHB/Interim Agent, Andrew Scribner-MacLean – Acting Town Administrator (arrived at 8:17 p.m.)

Called to Order at 6:45 p.m. by Ellen Greendale

Administrative Business

The Conservation Commission brought in a candidate, Kaitlyn Young, for a third interview for the Conservation Agent/Assistant Planner position. The Commission members introduced themselves. Kaitlyn introduced herself to the Commission and provided some information on her background. She’s a recent graduate of UMass Amherst and is in the process of finishing her thesis, which will be published. She has a Master’s degree in Regional Planning with a focus in Land Use and Environmental Planning. Her undergraduate degrees are in Geography and Marine Affairs. She has experience in the following areas: planning, public meetings, grant writing, geology, and GIS. She will be working towards her AICP certification. She would be willing to/interested in taking courses to understand how to identify wetlands. All of the Commission members and Gene Crouch asked Kaitlyn questions about her experience and they gave her an opportunity to ask any questions of the Commission. Though she understands that much of the role would be reactive, she asked about proactive opportunities within the role as well.

The Commission discussed their thoughts of Kaitlyn as a candidate for the role and all agreed that she is a well-qualified and strong candidate.

John Dwyer made a motion to recommend the hiring of Kaitlyn Young for the Conservation Agent/Assistant Planner position. The motion was seconded by Ellen Greendale.

The Board voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Prior to the meeting, Andrew Scribner-MacLean learned that the Charter states that the Acting Town Administrator has all the power of the Town Administrator except for appointing permanent employees. The Board of Selectman cannot delegate the power to the Acting Town Administrator. Andrew can, however, appoint a temporary employee and the Board of Selectman can, in the absence of a Town Administrator, appoint the employee as permanent. The BOS will meet in a few weeks and can finalize the permanent appointment at that time.

Wetlands/Stormwater Issues

Gene Crouch provided an update on the permit violation at 213 Main Street. After visiting the site he determined that the owner has mowed almost all the way to the river, though there is a layer of shrubs right next to the river. He provided the Commission members with a copy of the file to review the original conditions of the permit. One of the conditions of the permit was that no mowing was to be done beyond the limit of work. He was unable to find a 30-foot specification, but it does specify that no work was to be within 50 feet of the river and the house was to be located 80 feet from the river. He also found a condition for a Conservation Restriction Boundary. There was no recorded order found in the file. There were two planting plans in the file, one from July and one from September. Gene's recommendation is to determine the current owner via the Assessor's Office, send the owner a letter, and make arrangements to do a site walk to ensure the required plantings are either in place or will be in place soon. The order also needs to be recorded. Gene will draft a letter to the owners and the condo association. A site visit will be scheduled once the letter has been sent.

Gene stated that there is a new application for a well field for four new 40' wells at a location near 129 Parker Street. Gene has been to the location with Maynard DPW Director, Aaron Miklosko and Town Engineer, Wayne Amico. The proposed location is directly adjacent to wetlands within roughly 20 feet of the water. The application was prepared by GeoInsight and DEP Water Supply has issued a permit to allow the wells. There were test wells put in place in 2012, and they are still in place. GeoInsight now wants to put in 8-inch test wells for a pump test in the same location. If the 8-inch test wells are successful, they will put in 10-inch production wells in the same location. The proposal is to drive through the wetlands for access. The Town would still need to grant a permit to allow the wells in that location. GeoInsight would need to file an NOI with the Conservation Commission. Gene wants to meet with Fish and Wildlife and Natural Heritage to discuss the proposal prior to abutter notifications going out. He and Aaron will meet with them. The wells would also impact Blanding turtle nesting.

Gene provided an update on well #6. Drilling has begun and at the time Gene visited the site, they were down 60 feet.

Land Management

Gene Crouch provided the Commission members a copy of a Notice of Intent (NOI) that will be coming forward on July 10 for a sewer project for the Town.

Gene stated that someone reported illegal dumping of landscaping debris at Silver Hill conservation land.

Business

Gene Crouch stated that Aaron Miklosko received a request to remove a tree that was described as a street tree. However, the tree is actually on private property but possibly in a wetland. Gene suggested that there should be a protocol for removal of an individual tree that doesn't require the resident to file RDA. He recommended that either the Conservation Agent or a Commission member respond directly to the resident to make a site visit and determine the appropriateness of the tree removal at the time.

John Dwyer mentioned that that's how the Commission has handled it in the past. James Bullis stated that any time the tree is an invasive species, it should be removed.

Gene mentioned that Arlington requires a 1-to-1 replacement of any tree that is removed. Andrew Scribner-MacLean suggested the idea of an option of payment into a town tree fund in lieu of replacement at the same property.

John Dwyer stated that the Commission had discussed in the past the idea of creating a list of heritage trees that are found throughout Maynard. Andrew mentioned that a layer for heritage trees could be added to the GIS maps on the Town website.

John Dwyer suggested having a regularly scheduled secondary meeting time during the month due to the quantity of upcoming agenda items. The Commission all agreed that the fourth Tuesday of the month works well. Gene recommended posting the additional meetings as Special Meetings.

Ellen Greendale made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by John Dwyer.

The Board voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Adjourned at 8:35

Exhibits Presented

The Notice of Intent for the Town's sewer project was distributed to the members.