



**CITY OF GARDNER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Gardner City Hall – Manca Annex
115 Pleasant St., Room 202

978-630-4014

Gardner, MA 01440

fax 978-632-1905

MEETING

Monday, April 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Due to the ongoing conditions related to the COVID 19 outbreak, the meeting will be held via Zoom Meeting. Detailed instructions for participating in the meeting via Zoom Meeting are posted at the bottom of this agenda, or can be obtained by emailing Lyndsy Butler, Conservation Agent, at lbutler@gardner-ma.gov. All documents and permit applications can be provided electronically. Please send request to lbutler@gardner-ma.gov. All persons interested in this matter, or who desire to offer testimony, are invited to participate.

Members via Zoom:

Chairman Greg Dumas, Michael Hermanson, Norman Beauregard, Donna Lehtinen, and Duncan Burns. Also on Zoom was Conservation Agent Lyndsy Butler, and Administrative Clerk Kris Singer

Members Absent:

David Orwig & David Beauregard

Guests & Visitors:

Fred Hurd (owner of 5 Cotes Cove Rd) and Wesley Caouette from CAW. David Semenza & Siobhan Doherty – owners of 87 Minott St.

MEETING – brought to Order by Chairman G. Dumas at 6:30 pm

Minutes

Vote to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of April 12, 2021

- Motion to approve Minutes made by N. Beauregard, seconded by M. Hermanson, and voted all in favor.

Request for Determination of Applicability

2021-05

The Gardner Conservation Commission will hold a joint Public Meeting under MGL, Ch. 131, § 40, Wetlands Protection Act and the City of Gardner Wetlands Protection Ordinance on the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by David Semenza and Siobhan Doherty, for work to be conducted at 87 Minott Street, Gardner, MA 01440 (W12-23-12). Proposed work is for the installation of a drainage system located within the buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and stream.

- David Semenza and Siobhan Doherty, owners of the property, explained that for the last several years they have had rainwater drainage issues in their basement. They are now proposing the gutters be re-routed around the property, away from the house.
- L. Butler, who has been out to the house, notes there is an expansive vegetative wetlands on site with a small stream that flows into Wright's Reservoir. The house is 148 feet from the stream. She recommends a Negative 3 Determination. The work that they are proposing is minimal with no adverse effect to Wright's Reservoir.
- D. Burns agrees that the wetland is a large area.
- G. Dumas does not think that their proposal is a major issue. And both N. Beauregard and M. Hermanson have no issue, as well, with the proposed work
- A Motion to issue a Negative 3 Determination was made by N. Beauregard, seconded by D. Lehtinen, and voted all in favor.

Notice of Intent

DEP#160-0644

The Gardner Conservation Commission will hold a joint Public Hearing under MGL, Ch. 131, § 40, Wetlands Protection Act and the City of Gardner Wetlands Protection Ordinance on a Notice of Intent filed by Fred Hurd, for the replacement of a retaining wall located at 5 Cotes Cove Road (H17-14-2). Project is located within the resource area.

Continued from 4/12/21

- Fred Hurd (owner of the property) was present with his contractor, Wesley Caouette from CAW. W. Caouette explained that the proposed plan would put hay waddles or some other erosion control up during the demo and installation. His plan is to take down the current wall in small sections (8 foot increments) and add recon blocks as they went along. He also plans to use 3 – 5 inch erosion stones to hold back the water, causing it to be a 'dam' during the installation.
- G. Dumas has doubts about being able to hold back the water. W. Caoutte conceded that there is no getting away from not working in the water. He can set

- up erosion control behind the wall to hold back more water, as suggested by G. Dumas.
- N. Beauregard likes the idea of working behind the timbers.
 - D. Burns inquired about a time frame for the work, and W. Caoutte advised that the new wall can be installed in 3 working days, with the old wall out on the 4th day.
 - L. Butler agrees with G. Dumas' proposal of working behind the timbers.
 - D. Burns asked about the railroad tie disposal, and W. Caouette informed the Commission that AKS Recycling will be disposing of the materials.
 - In regards to the trees set for removal by the pond, which are now tagged, G. Dumas expressed concern about putting more sun on that section of the pond. F. Hurd noted that the tagged trees were just part of his "wish list" and he doesn't need to take all of them down. He still needs to talk with the neighbor about the tree removal, too. F. Hurd is just concerned with removing the dead tree. G. Dumas is fine with removing the dead tree.
 - In the second section of trees tagged for removal, F. Hurd advised that the tall pines were 30+ feet high. G. Dumas would prefer to leave those trees standing.
 - L. Butler offered to go back to the site and see the trees tagged for removal. When she was last there, the trees weren't tagged. F. Hurd reiterated that it's not critical to cut down all of the trees, just the dead ones. G. Dumas is ok with removing the dead trees and the birch trees. N. Beauregard also agrees. L. Butler also noted that it's important to keep shade near the pond.
 - M. Hermanson offered that the applicant can revisit with the Commission after L. Butler does another site visit and once the dead trees are removed. The Commission all like this idea.
 - A Motion to issue a standard order of conditions was made by M. Hermanson, seconded by D. Lehtinen, and voted all in favor.

New Business

445 Park Street

- L. Butler did go look at this property, and she advised that no permit has been filed. She has sent a letter to the homeowner and will follow up if she hasn't heard back this week. She agrees that a small wetland is on the property, and it looks like the homeowner is just trying to level out the property.
- N. Beauregard wishes there were waddles or something else present on the site.

Upcoming Meetings

May 10

May 24

June 14

Motion to Adjourn

6:54 pm A motion to adjourn was made by N. Beauregard. The motion was seconded by D. Burns, and voted unanimously, all in favor.

NOTICE: These Agenda items consist of items that are reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting and are specifically allowed to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Agent of the Conservation Commission

Lyndsy Butler is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Conservation Commission

Time: Apr 26, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92157328019?pwd=REJ3blE0VTk2ZGpuemFyKzU2TUJydz09>

Meeting ID: 921 5732 8019

Passcode: 646714

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