

**CITY OF GARDNER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

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Gardner, MA 01440

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MEETING

Monday, August 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

**CITY HALL ANNEX
SECOND FLOOR MEETING ROOM 203**

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

David Orwig, and David Beauregard

Guests & Visitors:

Aiden Yakuben – Boy’s Scout Troop #9, Pete Martin & Rafaella Cardoso – co-owners of Releaf Cultivation, Jon Allard – Fuss & O’Neill, and Steven Rockwood - resident

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

Minutes

Vote to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of July 26, 2021

- No vote due to lack of a quorum for the Minutes

Appointments

Aiden Yakuben to discuss sign project for Boy Scouts of America.

- Aiden Yakuben from Troop #9 explained his “Life Project” proposal. He is looking to clean up the Cummings Otter River Conservation. He proposes to have 6 – 7 Scouts help him clean up the hiking trails by picking up sticks and marking the trees.
- His proposal includes 2 hours of planning and 6 hours of work.
- G. Dumas noted that this type of work was done there a couple of years ago. A. Yakuben confirms and notes that it’s now overgrown again.
- Trees 30 – 70’ feet apart will be marked with dots using blue spray paint. This will be done for both directions of the trail.

- D. Burns asked if there is evidence of erosion, and A. Yakuben acknowledge that it's noticeable and may be a problem.
- The work is hoping to start in early September.
- D. Burns likes the idea and asked that the Commission be notified before the start of the project and after it's finished.
- G. Dumas agrees and suggested that pictures are taken as a "before and after."

Notice of Intent

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 Fuss & O'Neil on behalf of Releaf Cultivation, LLC of 232 Old Colony Avenue, Boston, MA 02127 for the construction of a new cannabis cultivation facility located at 120 Suffolk Lane, Gardner (X37-16-14). Project is located within the buffer to Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

- Co-owners of Releaf Cultivation, Pete Martin and Rafaella Cardoso, were present.
- Jon Allard from Fuss & O'Neill presented the proposal. He notes some work being done in the 100' wetland buffer and a little bit of work in the 60' No Build zone. He also explained that there are two storm water conveyances which drain to a large basin in the rear.
- An ANRAD was conducted in 2018. There is not much difference now, save for the fact that the trees are thicker but it is still undeveloped. As noted then, there is a big grade change.
- G. Dumas asked for the proposed work to be described. J. Allard said that they are enlarging the detention basin in the back and installing pipe. He clarified that it's only the grading that is being done in the 60' No Build. Boorings were done in June on the proposed building site. The proposed building is 50,000 sqft with 19 available parking spaces.
- D. Burns asked if there is city sewer there, and there is.
- J. Allard noted that the roof will pitch down to the front catch basin. The plowed snow will be kept at the bottom of a hill to the left of the building.
- G. Dumas stated that the work in the 60' No Build is ok because it's already been disturbed and they are only grading there, not building. J. Allard also said that the grading area is very minimal, but he's not sure of the full sqft of grading area. G. Dumas asked why they are grading in that particular area, and J. Allard responded that it's due to the challenging topography.
- D. Burns still has issue with the work being done in the 60' No Build. G. Dumas would like to know the actual sqft of where they are in the 60' No Build. L. Butler believes that if this was appealed to the DEP, that they would allow it. G. Dumas further clarified that it's the existing detention basin which is in the 60' No Build, no new structures.
- G. Dumas asked if the land was flagged, and J. Allard said that he believe it was done in 2018.
- M. Hermanson's only concern is for the re-seeding of the area.

- G. Dumas asked when work will begin, if everything is allowed. P. Martin stated that they would like to start in the 3rd or 4th week of September, but G. Dumas advised that that's not a realistic timeframe. P. Martin then said they are looking to move earth in November. He hopes to have the steel building up by mid-March, 2022.
- J. Allard acknowledged that the construction timeline is in flux as the site needs a lot of work. He mentioned their hope is to seed for the winter in mid-October. Based on this, his best guess is that construction will start next year.
- G. Dumas questioned if grass will grow in October, and J. Allard noted that they have seeded in October on another property and it took, and that property was re-seeded in the spring.
- J. Allard said that they can work to move all work completely out of the 60' No Build.
- L. Butler advised that they will need to continue the NOI to August 23rd due to the fact that there is no DEP#.
- A Motion to continue to August 23rd was made by D. Burns, seconded by M. Hermanson, and voted all in favor.

Request for Determination of Applicability

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 Jeffrey Alisaukas for work to be conducted at 23 Airport Road, Gardner, MA 01440 (H17-10-4). Proposed work is to spread beach sand along the buffer to Kendall Pond.

Continued from 6/28/21, 7/26/21

- L. Butler says that the Commission has received a request for a continuance.
- A Motion to continue to August 23rd made by D. Burns, seconded by N. Beaugard, and voted all in favor.

New Business

140 S. Main St

- L. Butler advised that the site still needs soil testing and it takes time to complete.

7:01 pm A motion to adjourn was made by D. Burns. The motion was seconded by D. Lehtinen, and voted unanimously, all in favor.

Upcoming Meetings

August 23
September 13
September 27

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.