

TOWN OF
STONEHAM
MASSACHUSETTS

Town Hall
35 Central Street

Stoneham Conservation Commission
781-279-2696

STONEHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING June 12 2023 REMOTE 7 PM

Please join from your computer, tablet or smartphone. <https://meet.goto.com/925856541>

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You can watch the Stoneham Conservation Commission Meeting on Mon., June 12, 2023 on Stoneham TV: Comcast Channel 22, Astound/RCN Channel 13 and Verizon Channel 36 as well as online at www.stonehamtv.org/ondemand and click on LIVE Stream.

Jessica Gerke, Norman L'Esperance, Alex Rozycki, Richard Jackson, Megan Day and Domenick Cimina, Charlie Houghton, Maureen Herald, Jennifer Relstab, Amy Ball, Cat Pedeonti

PRESENTATION

Stoneham High School

Jennifer Relstab

Horsley Witten Group- Update on wetlands project at SHS

Presentation about Stoneham High School wetlands by Jennifer Relstab. Erin Wortman Director of Planning and Community Development introduces project team for sustainable efforts with project. Dennis Sheehan as Town Administrator on project team. Jennifer Relstab Horsley Witten, Amy Ball Senior Ecologist, Jamie McCarthy Environmental Scientist, Michael Easler landscape architect, Catherine Pedeonti from Mystic River Watershed, Daria Clark Engagement Manager for advertising, Carolyn Mecklenburg Greater Boston Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Regional Coordinator.

Cat Pedeonti Mystic River Watershed project came to be in regards to climate resilience collaborative. Started 5 years ago, 24 municipalities came together regarding flooding crossing municipal boundaries, need to coordinate and collaborate. Within Resilient Mystic Collaborative (RMC) upper mystic working group in freshwater section, MVP moves projects forward with funding, fresh water section- broad goal manage precipitation based flooding vs coastal flooding. Over the next 50 years what will flooding look like. Storm water wetlands is a human made wetland that holds and infiltrates water and filters pollutants and great habitat for wildlife and community members. Over 400 sites narrowed to 6, design and permit top 3 sites. Community engagement through out project.

Jennifer Relstab speaks to Town owned parcel of SHS, Southern portion is wetlands project. Agricultural history of Stoneham discussed in 1950s. Connectivity is adjacent to DCR parcel which is part of Middlesex Fells Reservation, opportunity to connect neighborhoods to DCR property and trails. Hydrologic connections and intermittent stream, wooded and unused in wetlands. 2021 field assessment pictures. Debris and trash from construction materials, tires, car, old wood, invasives all in stream in wetlands. Delineation has some wildlife support, trees and some native species. Healthy forested wetland and intermittent stream. Knotweed clustered and other common species to urban areas along with trash and debris with yard waste. Existing foot

path from high school to Dapper Darby Drive. Opening in chain link fence to foot path. Wooden crossing over intermittent stream is unusable.

Opportunity for expanding capacity of native species to increase wetland resiliency. Improve stream flow and restore aquatic ecosystems. Remove invasive species to increase biodiversity and ecosystem resilience and create pathways. Preliminary concept presented in 2021 to local right of ways and high school and DCR, to create connections and allow entry to space with nature with permeable surfaces. Trailheads would have signage, key entry and exit, overlooks to immerse folks into experience. MVP application May 2022 and awarded in September 2022. Horsely Witten Group working with Mystic Valley Watershed and the Town to support climate resiliency and connectivity and is a 2 year grant that ends in June 2024. Topographic survey done of infrastructure and wetlands delineated, project engagement and site walk with permitting in spring of 2024. More public engagement in fall 2023.

Amy Ball Senior Ecologist at Horsely Witten wetlands delineation done, stream that flows and bordering vegetated wetland. Also another isolated wetland that has resource area buffer zones. Stream has a 100 foot buffer as does streams. Any work will fall within Conservation jurisdiction. Defined banks due to straightening. Intermittent stream flows from culvert. Wetland delineation report will follow to Conservation Commission.

Jennifer Relstab mentions invasives species management plan strategies are physical/mechanical which helps preserve native species, chemical herbicides in selective application as cut and drip and biological (goats). All have pros/cons. Final draft by July 2023. Next steps are survey, check out the website via town link and stay tuned for meeting in the fall.

PUBLIC HEARING

19 Philips Rd #297-0413

Charles Houghton/Norse Environmental
Notice of Intent

Charles Houghton speaks to 1933 Subdivision plan, Board of Appeals decision and concept plan submitted today to help Commission understand single family home. Originally in 1933 has been vacant as grass, owned by 17 Philips. Shed will be removed from 19 and pool at 17 will be removed and returned to lawn. Board of Appeals agreed to limit size of house. 1.5 stories and no more than 2000 square feet, as represented on rendering. Needed variance for frontage and is now confirming.

Maureen Herald Norse Environmental shares plan from Notice of Intent. Remove pool and concrete deck, restore lawn, relocate fence and shed at 17 Philips Rd. Perennial stream is across the street, work is within 200 riverfront area. 19 Philips single family dwelling, rooftop infiltration and driveway within 200 feet of riverfront. Erosion controls, water and sewer on property.

Jessica Gerke erosion controls will need to be maintained. Infiltration basins in road silt sacks by house. Ms. Gerke says there are 2 catch basins nearby. Alex Rozycki agrees standard conditions and erosion controls with silt sacks in catch basins.

Ann Panopoulos, 31 Ravine Rd Melrose behind 17 Philips, shares fence. Concern of notification, scale at variance meeting is misleading. Clare Robertson has 1300 square feet property. Property owner concern as lowest spot of surrounding houses, have frogs/salamanders and is concerned about water flow. Will there be any blasting? Where is the water going to go? How will it affect neighbors' property environmentally? Maureen Herald responds at rear of property there is landscaping, rain water will be collected via downspout to roof infiltrator. Rainwater will be directed in to the ground. The water table concern is 62 inches per hole per test holes for groundwater which is deep compared to some MA properties. Storm water is being managed to help protect neighbors. No blasting is known. Charlie Houghton responds test pits did not show ledge in area.

Alex Rozycki looked at test pits asking for filtration of ground water pumping during digging, cant direct discharge to catch basin, clean water needs to leave site of any discharge. Filter bag and straw waddles to require clean discharge. Infiltration basin while not required want to make sure its shallow and spread. Infiltration will be two feet above water table per Maureen Herald.

Cindy Hanley 14 Philips Rd directly across street if water does get pumped out where does it go? Brook can't take anymore. DCR dredged brook but Stoneham and Melrose never did so adding flow to brook side into her yard. Maureen Herald can't discharge into drainage system, silt sacks in catch basins to keep sediment out, erosion controls on front of property, dewatering would be on property.

Singeeta Goswami 33 Ravine Rd shares fence with current property, concerned about water situation. Questions pool on property impacts. Maureen Herald removing pool and patio which is impervious and putting in lawn. Providing infiltration to collect on property and put on ground on site. Removing patio and pool and improving that area.

Alex Rozycki asks about timeline for removing patio/pool and foundation. Foundation excavation, pour footings and walls so construction of foundation will be a few days. Alex Rozycki comments elevations not on plans, so difficult to know topography but erosion control along back edge of property so there is no overland flow is leaving site to back of property. Jimmy Castellano replied a week to 10 days for walls, footings, and foundation. Andy Bramhill would pin it.

Jessica Gerke asked about if material from excavation will be used to fill in pool. Concrete removed first per Castellano and uses structural material to make sure there aren't sink holes. Test pits for drainage have been done.

Cindy Hanley 14 Philips Rd responds mitigation of brook is important and supports project.

Motion to close public hearing made by Alex Rozycki seconded by Richard Jackson Roll call Jessica Gerke, Norman L'Esperance, Alex Rozycki, Richard Jackson, Megan Day and Domenick Cimina 6/0

Motion to approve with dewatering on site with standard conditions by Alex Rozycki seconded by Norman L'Esperance Roll Call yes Jessica Gerke, Norman L'Esperance, Alex Rozycki, Richard Jackson, Megan Day and Domenick Cimina 6/0

DISCUSSION

MWRA Follow up

Jerry Sheehan

Open projects

Appearance of landscape at Main St/South St. Alex Rozycki states area was never seeded, full of weeds, eroding onto roadways, area needs to be restored.

Megan Day spoke to contractor, assessed situation, planted by splash pad, moving equipment per our request, waiting till fall to plant grass. It's on their radar.

Abutters of Hall Rd letter

Jessica Gerke

Responsibility of living near resource letter. Cover letter is in process. Educational mailing.

Tree Replacement

Tom Brady

Plantings List has been furnished and is available as needed. Resend to Mr. Jackson.

Whip Hill

Quinn Electric update is complete, grounded plugs are installed.

Miscellaneous

Topics for Future Agendas

Alex Rozycki reviews summer schedule- July 10, August 7 and August 28.

Approve Meeting Minutes from May 22, 2023

Motion to approve all minutes listed by Alex Rozycki and seconded by Megan Day

Approve meeting minutes from Weiss Farm Executive Sessions: 7/9/15, 9/18/17, 6/25/18, 2/12/19, 9/7/22, 12/12/22, 1/30/23, 4/10/23 (2/7/22 and 11/1/22 will need to be released once Rear Hillside is settled.)

Roll call Jessica Gerke, Norman L'Esperance, Alex Rozycki, Richard Jackson, Megan Day and Domenick Cimina yes 6/0

Next Meeting July 10, 2023

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Norman L'Esperance seconded by Alex Rozycki Roll call yes Jessica Gerke, Norman L'Esperance, Alex Rozycki, Richard Jackson, Megan Day and Domenick Cimina 6/0