



**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**COHASSET CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021 TIME: 6:00 PM**  
**Meeting Held Via Zoom Platform**

**In Attendance:**

Chris MacFarlane, Chair  
Maryanne Wetherald, Vice Chair  
Eric Eisenhauer, Member  
Kathy Berigan, Secretary  
Trish Grady, Member  
Tom Bell, Associate Member

**Town Staff Present:**

Jeffrey Summers, Conservation Agent  
Angela Geso, Administrative, Recording Secretary

**Absent:**

Justin Pimpare, Member  
Heather Sites, Associate Member

**Chair MacFarlane opened the meeting at 6:35 pm**

**Roll Call Attendance:** Berigan-aye; Grady – Aye; Eisenhauer – Aye; Bell-Aye; MacFarlane-aye; Wetherall-aye; (5 Voting Members)

**6:35 PM: SWP 19-23: 130 Nichols Road – Amending Existing Stormwater Permit**

**In attendance to represent agenda item:** John Cavanaro/Cavanaro Consulting; Sean Papich/Landscape Architect

**Documents presented to support agenda item:** Amended SWP; Revised Site Plans

The applicant is proposing to add a well as shown on revise plans and alleviate the amount of runoff going to the street. A proposed tennis court was never built and the area is intended for continuing the drive for better maneuverability. Two (2) beech trees were removed and additional landscaping and vegetation will be added around the well site. Mr. Cavanaro said the addition of an infiltration system to the rear of the yard will direct runoff to a catch basin on Nichols Road. A large reduction in overland flow will be channeled to a piping system that leads to the catch basin on Nichols Road. Chair Macfarlane questioned the potential for pollutants to run through the system but Mr. Cavanaro said a catch basic at the top of the drive will treat runoff to run clean. He also stated that the threshold of the Stormwater Permit is being met and the amount of uncontrolled runoff down the driveway is reduced. With the loss of the tennis court the runoff from the ledge is more controlled and manholes, catch basins, additional landscaping and a filtration system all contribute to a reduced flow. It was discussed for the applicant to install a stone trench on the eastern slope of the property facing the road to intercept runoff that was off concern to Vice Chair Wetherald. The applicant agreed to the trench.

**MOTION:** By Vice Chair Wetherald to amend Stormwater Permit 19-23 for 130 Nichols Road with the condition that the applicant makes modifications to reduce runoff wherever possible and the modifications are to be viewed by the Conservation Agent.

**SECOND:** Member Eisenhauer

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Berigan-Aye; Eisenhauer-Aye; Grady-Aye; Wetherald-Aye; Macfarlane-Aye

**VOTE:** 5-0 Unanimous

**7:00 PM: NOI 21-17, SWP 21-16 - 502 North Main Street – Renovation/New Construction (Con't from 4/8/21)**

**In attendance to represent agenda item:** John Zimmer, Wetlands Scientist/South River Environmental; Rebecca Bachand, Professional Landscape Architect /RBLA Design; Mike Ahearn/Applicant

**Documents presented to support agenda item:** Plan Revisions

The applicant proposes to raze and rebuild an existing house, subdivide the existing lot and add a second residence. Twenty-four (24) trees in varying sizes, including red maples, river birch, white pine and assorted native shrubs will be added for mitigation. There will be some restoration and brush removal in the 50-foot buffer zone intended to make the buffer more efficient. Removal of invasives will be done by hand.

**MOTION:** By Vice Chair Wetherald close the public hearing for NOI 21-17 and issue an Order of Conditions to construct a new single-family dwelling and restore an existing single-family dwelling at 502 North Main Street with the recommendation that no herbicides or chemicals be used as means of invasive removal within the 50-foot buffer zone and if any chemicals are to be used the applicant needs to submit a plan for removal prior to any work being done

**SECOND:** Member Berigan

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Berigan-Aye; Eisenhower-Aye; Grady-Aye; Wetherald-Aye; Macfarlane-Aye

**VOTE:** 5-0 Unanimous

**MOTION:** By Chair Macfarlane to issue a variance for NOI 21-17 for clean-up, mitigation and planting within the 50-foot buffer zone at 502 North Main Street.

**SECOND:** Member Grady

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Berigan-Aye; Eisenhower-Aye; Grady-Aye; Wetherald-Aye; Macfarlane-Aye

**VOTE:** 5-0 Unanimous

**MOTION:** By Chair MacFarlane to close the public hearing and approve Stormwater Permit 21-16 for proposed work at 502 North Main Street.

**SECOND:** Vice Chair Wetherald

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Berigan-Aye; Eisenhower-Aye; Grady-Aye; Wetherald-Aye; Macfarlane-Aye

**VOTE:** 5-0 Unanimous

**7:30 PM: NOI 21-18, 589-595 Jerusalem Road – Restoration to Coastal Bank**

**In attendance to represent agenda item:** Steve Ivas/Environmental Consultant

**Documents presented to support agenda item:** Planting & Restoration Plan

The applicants want to restore a coastal bank with vegetation and invasive removal. This project was previously filed as an RDA and a considerable amount of work has already been done. So far all removal of invasives and replanting has been done by hand. The plan is to cover all possible strata with layers of plantings and put trees and shrubs at the top of the bank. The ground surface will be completely covered so there is no bare soil available for erosion. Chair Macfarlane is concerned that in a natural ecosystem more vegetation doesn't always guarantee successful mingling of species but Mr. Ivas suggested to do the restoration and see what thrives. Member Eisenhower feels that

eliminating the invasive species is a major step in the restoration project and that the owners are committed to maintaining the area so it's advisable to see what develops over a planting season. Mr. Ivas feels the next stage of the project is to get rid of the invasives this summer and then do plantings in the fall. Agent Summers has worked on the project with Ms. Berndsen and that she is extremely knowledgeable and capable of monitoring the invasive removal.

**MOTION:** By Vice Chair Wetherald to close the public hearing on NOI 21-28 and issue an Order of Conditions for proposed removal of invasive species at 589-595 Jerusalem road with the following conditions:

- To study the situation as it exists and prepare for further fall planting;
- To review the final planting plan in August regarding Phases 1, 2 & 3;
- To ensure that no native species are removed, no fertilizers or chemicals be used in removal of invasives, all removal shall be done by hand, and that no soil be allowed to erode into Straits Pond during removal of invasives.

**SECOND:** Member Eisenhauer

**ROLL CALE VOTE:** Berigan-Aye; Eisenhauer-Aye; Grady-Aye; Wetherald-Aye; Macfarlane-Nay

**VOTE:** 4-1 (Chair Mcfarlane in dissent)

#### **COMMISSION BUSINESS:**

The commission said good-bye to Agent Jeff Summers who has accepted a new position and will be leaving on Friday, April 23. The commissioners appreciated the time, knowledge and professionalism he brought to the position and wished him the best in his new job.

With no further business to discuss,

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Made by Member Eisenhauer

**SECOND:** Secretary Berigan

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Berigan-Aye; Eisenhauer-Aye; Grady-Aye; Wetherald-Aye; Macfarlane-Aye

**VOTE:** 5-0 Unanimous

Meeting of 4/22/21 adjourned at 10:15 pm