

Bristol Conservation Commission
August 5, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Approved: 9/2/20

Members Present:

Carroll Brown, Chair; Janet Cote, Vice Chair; Karen Bemis (via Zoom), and Christina Goodwin, Land Use Manager

Absent

Bonnie MacGillivray Blout and Richard Batchelder

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm with a quorum of members in-person and via the Zoom platform. Mr. Brown explained that under the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 the Conservation Commission is authorized to meet electronically, in-person or a combination of the two options. The meeting is open to the public via the Zoom platform on computer, laptop, smart phone, tablet or phone and is available by conference call via Zoom or local telephone call. If any member is unable to access or is having trouble hearing, they can call the help phone (603) 530-1739. All information on how to attend have been posted online and materials were made available at the Town Offices.

Minutes

The minutes of July 1, 2020 were reviewed. Mrs. Cote motioned to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mrs. Bemis. The motion carried by roll-call vote 3-0-0.

New Business

Presentation on Advanced Enviro septic system - Mr. Brown presented a video on Advanced Enviro Septic Systems from the Environmental Expo. The device is placed directly into the septic tank for better treatment and can lead to expansion of leach fields. Discussion followed regarding pros and cons of the septic device. The Commission agreed that the 125 ft setback should be researched to determine if it is too restrictive considering the technology available for septic systems today. The Land Use Office will do some research and bring it back to the Commission.

Unfinished Business / Commission Member Items

Special Use Permit Application – Map/Lot #212-032 - Hundred Acre Wood Rd

Ms. Goodwin, Mr. Brown, Mrs. DeStefano (Planning Board Chair), Mr. DeStefano (Zoning Board Chair) and Tyler Simonds (Planner) attended a site visit at the property. Ms. Goodwin displayed photos and maps of the area from that site visit. Mr. Brown stated that the area appears to contain more loam than sand fill. The stream is approximately 30 ft from the driveway on the left side and there are additional wetlands located on the right side. Only ¼ of an acre was disturbed and there is no more fill to be added. Discussion followed regarding concerns on how close the bulldozing sites are to the wetlands. Mr. Brown and Mrs. Cote recommended that Department of Environmental Services (DES) be contacted to address those concerns. Mrs. Cote brought up a possible concern if the leech field blows out into the wetlands. Ms. Goodwin stated that DES had the plans and approved of the setbacks.

The Commission takes into consideration that DES has approved a septic with new technology in relation to the elevation and poorly drained soils and these technologies were not in existence when setbacks were not created, therefore the Conservation Commission supports the Septic within 125 ft. The Conservation Commission recommends no further construction activity on the wetlands and any site construction should not impact the wetlands. The Commission additionally recommends following best management practices (BMP's) for wetlands during construction, inquiring with DES for a wetland's permit and following BMP's after construction.

Shore Drive Update

Ms. Goodwin provided an update on the status of the Shore Drive violation. The Select Board is reviewing the options for the location and any enforcement action is on hold until the end of August.

Breck-Plankey Spring

Mr. Brown stated that he is grabbing more rocks and gravel to place around the Breck-Plankey Spring. March and July test results came back great and the next testing is in September.

Mr. Brown discussed a voicemail from a concerned citizen regarding people and their use of the spring. It was said that people were washing bottles with soap and dumping the soap near the spring and the citizen was afraid that the soap would contaminate the rivers and groundwater. The Commission discussed the situation further and it was decided that members would monitor the situation and check out the area of the spring visually for evidence of any contamination and/or impact. The spring was visited by Mr. Brown since the message was received and it was deemed in good condition.

Other

Signs and Website for Breck-Plankey Spring, By-Laws, and Membership Ideas (binders, brochures, etc.) will be addressed at the next meeting.

Commission Member Items

None

Communications

Shoreland Permit Application – Mayhew Program – Map/Lot #204-001

Ms. Goodwin stated the application is the first in many steps to reconstruct the North cabin on the island. Mayhew is proposing to tear down the cabin, rebuild it and move it out of the 50ft wetlands setback. In addition, they are renovating the South cabin, and adding solar panels on the roof. Mayhew will be completing a Minor Site Plan of the North cabin location only and not a full island site plan. Mrs. Cote pointed out that the Mayhew Program is going to need a septic design due to the outlay of the building. Ms. Goodwin stated that she will research further and bring information back to the Commission.

Other

The Commission discussed implementing a workshop focusing on the Conservation Commission process and forms / permits that need to be filed. Further discussion will take place at next meeting.

Ms. Goodwin stated that Mrs. MacGillivray Blout would like to resign her position with the Commission with approval. The Commission agreed to approve the resignation once a written resignation has been received.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The location and meeting type will be determined pending the status of the current pandemic and emergency orders.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:28 pm by Mrs. Bemis, seconded by Mrs. Cote. The motion passed by roll-call vote 3-0-0 and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Wharton
Minute Admin