



RECEIVED
By Town Clerk's Office at 9:30 am, Mar 24, 2023

TOWN OF BURLINGTON
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

DEPT. /BOARD: Conservation Commission

DATE: 3/09/2023

TIME: 6:30 PM

PLACE: 29 Center Street – Town Hall – 2nd Floor Main Hearing Room

Member(s) in attendance: Larry Cohen, Bill Boivin, Kent Moffatt, Ed LoTurco, Indra Deb, Emily Kotwal (all in person)

Member(s) absent: Rob Sheahan

Conservation Administrator John Keeley and Assistant Conservation Administrator Eileen Coleman were also present.

THE MEETING WAS BROADCAST LIVE ON THE BCAT GOVERNMENT CHANNEL

Approved at the March 23, 2023 Conservation Commission meeting

1. Call Meeting to Order – Roll call of attendance

Mr. Cohen called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and read a statement about public participation and technology. On a Roll Call, Larry Cohen, Bill Boivin, Kent Moffatt, Ed LoTurco, Indra Deb, Emily Kotwal indicated that they were present.

He took a moment to introduce the newest Commissioner, Ms. Emily Kotwal who has worked as a Marine Biologist and is currently a teacher at Minuteman Technical High School.

All Commissioners were present at the meeting in person so a roll call will not be necessary for each Motion.

2. Public Participation (for items not on the agenda)

There were no comments from the audience regarding items not on the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes – February 23, 2023

The Minutes from the previous meeting were not yet ready to be reviewed by the Commission at this time.



TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

5. Continued Public Hearing – Notice of Intent – 78 Mountain Road – Kenneth Gillis – Construct new residential dwelling – DEP #122-pending

The applicant has requested a continuance until the next meeting of the Commission on March 23, 2023

MOTION- To continue the public hearing until the next meeting of the Commission on March 23, 2023. The Motion was passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0-0.

4. Public Hearing – Notice of Intent – Blanchard Road ROW – Town of Burlington Engineering Division – Construct new sidewalk – DEP #122-pending

Mr. Stephen Hildreth, a senior engineer for the Town of Burlington was present remotely to explain the proposed project. He shared a slideshow with the Commission and explained that the proposed sidewalk would start on South Bedford Street, connect to the existing sidewalk on the Oracle campus and would continue west on Blanchard. A crosswalk will be installed across Blanchard Road, and the new sidewalk will connect the bike path at Oracle to the bike path at the Seven Springs apartment community.

Mr. Keeley brought attention to the multiple streams and wetland areas within the proposed project site but did not indicate that the wetlands would be adversely affected from constriction so long as proper precautions are taken.

Mr. Boivin asked about the number of telephone poles that appear to be in the middle of the proposed sidewalk and whether that would affect Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. Mr. Hildreth explained that any of the poles around the sidewalk will comply with ADA guidelines and the poles will not be moved from their current position.

MOTION- To continue the hearing for the project at Blanchard Road until the March 23, 2023 meeting of the Commission. The Motion was passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0-0.

6. Discussion: Incorporating climate change resilience in Wetlands & Stormwater Bylaws & Regulations

Mr. Cohen began the discussion by explaining that the Massachusetts DEP has undertaken an effort to incorporate regulations that address climate resilience (preparing for the impacts of climate change). These recommendations, some of which we have incorporated, include updating precipitation data to reflect higher volume storms and encouraging nature-based solutions.



TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Mr. Cohen continued to lead the discussion by summarizing a conference presentation he recently attended that focused on climate smart provisions for local wetlands bylaws and regulations.

A specific project he highlighted was The Nashua River Communities Resilient Lands Management Project, which is a two year project launched in September 2021 that is working to understand the potential for land use and land management policies and practices to support climate resilience and regeneration in the region over the coming decades.

The project is supported by the Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program. The tangible outcomes of this community-based process will include the Land Management guides for forests, turf and ornamental lands, model wetland bylaws and regulations that respond to the climate emergency, and a framework for ongoing community participation in decisions that affect the integrity and continued viability of our landscapes.

He offered examples of recommended language that could be included in local bylaws that protect biodiversity and optimize carbon sequestration and storage.

1. Officially designating a buffer zone as a Wetland Resource Area, and recommending changing the name to “Adjacent Upland Resource Area”.
2. Adding a jurisdiction area known as “Buffer Zone for Land Subject to Flooding”.
3. Vegetative wetlands replication should be updated to add ecological climate resilience and ecological carbon mitigation functions to the performance standards of an actual wetland replication.
4. The success of wetland replication shall be assessed on the capacity of the wetland replication area to provide ecologic climate resilience and carbon sequestration benefits.
5. Adding an impact assessment and replication, which would require an applicant to demonstrate that the proposed activities contribute to the protection of ecological climate.
6. The applicant shall conduct a full impact assessment that includes an alternative analysis and provide a mitigation plan. This is to estimate the amount of soil carbon expected to be impacted based on tree size and species, and calculate the amount of biomass carbon set to be removed so a plan can be created to replace it.

Further information on the project can be found [here](#).

He started a discussion about the information shared and whether a Climate Resilience Subcommittee should be formed.

Mr. Boivin expressed interest in the drafting and implementation of a Tree Bylaw for Burlington.



TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

The Commissioners and staff generally agreed on the formation of a Climate Resilience Subcommittee, and several members indicated interest in joining the subcommittee.

The first meeting will be held on Monday March 27, 2023 via Zoom but will be recorded and accessible to the public in accordance with the Open Meeting Law in Massachusetts.

Information on the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law can be found [here](#).

MOTION- To establish a Climate Resilience Subcommittee. The Motion was passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0-0.

7. Administration

a. There were no planning Board comments.

b. b. Subcommittee & staff reports and updates

Mr. Cohen requested the Commission check in with the progress of the planting and wetland restoration project at 127 Bedford Street. Ms. Coleman indicated that she plans to be in touch with the builder in the coming months.

Mr. Cohen asked if the applicants for the project at 11 Marjorie Road will be back to speak with the Commission.

He also asked about the Commission checking the status of the planting plan for 58 Beaverbrook Road.

c. There was no Other Business to discuss.

d. Upcoming meetings: March 23, 2023 | April 13, 2023

8. Adjourn

MOTION- To adjourn the meeting. The Motion was passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Prior, Recording Clerk.