

Town of Auburn, Massachusetts

Minutes of the Meeting

Conservation Commission

Hybrid Meeting

Wednesday, September 13th, 2023

Members Present in Person: Michael Garland; Chairman, Thomas Fallon; Vice Chair, Michelle Culross

Members Present Remotely: Katherine Nordborg, Meghan Langley

Members Absent: Chris Carey

Town of Auburn Staff Present: Jesse Averka

Michael Garland, Chairman, called the meeting to order. The meeting was recorded. The meeting could be watched on the town's website live streaming.

Michael Garland, Chairman, stated that this Open Meeting of the Town of Auburn Conservation Commission is being conducted in a hybrid format. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely as long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting.

For the public to join the meeting remotely by telephone, call 1-408-650-3123 and enter Access Code 942-845-549. Or, the public can join via computer at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/942845549>

All supporting materials that have been provided to members of this body are available on the Town's website. The public is encouraged to follow along using the posted agenda.

7:00 PM Applicant: Steven Gigante for Determination of Applicability for the property at 25 Shore Drive to install natural gas plastic pipe in the existing paved roadway and applicant's property using the open trench method. Map 5 Parcel 23

Thomas Fallon made a motion to open the hearing. **Michelle Culross** seconded the motion.

All in favor 5-0-0

Michael Garland stated that with the materials provided he could not make any determination on this request due to the poor quality of the map. With no one present representing the applicant **Michael Garland** suggested continuing the matter to the next meeting.

Thomas Fallon made a motion to continue the hearing to September 27th. **Michelle Culross** seconded the motion.

All in favor 5-0-0

Other Business

Certificate of Compliance for 63 Chestnut Ave

Nick Facendola is present remotely via webcam.

Michael Garland explained that the commission had performed a site visit and everything appeared to be in compliance with the plans submitted.

Nick Facendola explained that he was looking for a Certificate of Compliance for 65 Chestnut Ave as well. This Certificate of Compliance was set to be on the agenda for 9/27.

Thomas Fallon made a motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 63 Chestnut Ave. **Michelle Culross** seconded the motion.

All in favor 5-0-0

Certificate of Compliance for 54 Prospect St.

Kevin Quinn is present in person.

Kevin Quinn stated that he thought the project was completed in compliance but some deviations were made from the submitted plans. These deviations were mainly a decrease in the number of culverts and an increase in the impervious area on the site.

Michael Garland stated that typically when deviations to this degree are made the commission would request an amendment to the original order of conditions.

The commission also took note that the wetland restoration area was larger than what was initially submitted with the original plan.

Michael Garland suggested continuing the matter to the next meeting on September 27th in order to allow time for a site walk.

16 George St Cease and Desist

Jesse Averka informed the commission that he had spoken to a representative from Skyhook Tree who had stated that they would be removing the pile of wood chips and moving what remained away from the wetland. **Jesse Averka** then stated that in the coming week he would go out to the property and see what the site looked like after the work had been performed and report back to the commission.

25 Vinal St

Jesse Averka shared photos of the site showing the work site, including a silt fence which had been installed around the wetland but was installed incorrectly. **Jesse Averka** also stated that he had been in contact with Auburn DPW and the Auburn Building Department about this issue. There were still no permits that had been applied for or issued at this time. **Michael Garland** suggested that the commission send the property owner a letter detailing that they feel they

must file with the commission and advising them that the cease-and-desist order will stay in place until they have a hearing with the commission.

Thomas Fallon made a motion to issue a letter including the discussed terms. **Michelle Culross** seconded the motion.

All in favor 5-0-0

282 Southbridge St.

The commission discussed the difficulty that had been faced in trying to track down a specific person who had authorized the work performed here. **Meghan Langley** then stated she had personally received a letter from National Grid notifying her of the Central to Western Mass. Energy Improvement Project which mentioned the use of timber mats to reach utility poles. Meghan agreed to share copies of this notification with the other commissioners.

The commission decided to continue the discussion until the next meeting on September 27th.

Minutes

Thomas Fallon made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from August 23rd, 2023. **Meghan Langley** seconded the motion.

4 Approve, 1 abstain, 4 were present at meeting.

Thomas Fallon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Michelle Culross** seconded the motion.

All in favor 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Jesse Averka

Approved on 9/27/2023