



Town of Sterling

Conservation Commission

Barbara Roberti, Chair

Matthew S. Marro, Field Agent

1 Park St, Butterick Municipal Bldg- Room 207.

Sterling Massachusetts 01564

Tel 978 422 8111 ext 2321

Email mmarro@sterling-ma.gov

MINUTES

April 7, 2020 STERLING

CONSERVATION

COMMISSION

In response to the COVID-19 (Corona Virus) is currently following the guidance from the Sterling Board of Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the CDC regarding the virus and steps communities can take to prevent the spread and all town facilities are currently closed to the public. In accordance with the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, § 20, all public meetings are being conducted remotely.

The following information is also provided for members of the public that would like to participate in the meeting remotely (through www.zoom.us):

To Participate Remotely: **Participants may use cell phones, tablet and computers with audio and video capabilities as they have been tested. If you have trouble accessing or have general questions you can email during the meeting to mmarro@sterling-ma.gov Emails must be signed by full name address and phone number.**

Join Zoom Meeting - VIDEO AND AUDIO BY COMPUTER, TABLET, CELL PHONE and add this link into your browser or click on the link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7370885635>

Meeting ID: 737 088 5635

TELEPHONE PARTICIPATION ONLY DIAL :

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Dial by your location

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Find your local number: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/fb5qHKOKtc>



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In attendance: Chari Roberti, Mr. Pineo, Ms. Valentine, Mr. Micalak, Mr. Pavlowich, Mr. O'Neill, Ms. Smith, Mr. Emsley.

1. Meeting Notices and communications.
2. Minutes from the previous meeting
3. Old business- Follow-up Items from Warrant articles / Grant applications (If any)
4. New Business-
 - 4.1 Follow up on Tree City Designation (if any)
 - 4.2 Open Space discussion items –Ratification of expense for Tara Lane – The commission ratified the 400 dollar expense for work by Keith Favreau by a motion of Ms. Valentine and a second by Mr. Michalak with a unanimous vote to approve.
5. Enforcement/Investigation- CONTINUED: Enforcement Conference work in the bufferzone 32 Redemption Rock Trail CONTINUED, Mr. Marro noted the tree clearing within the buffer zone was a small amount and 98 feet away as compared to the larger acreage of trees cleared. Based on his on-site inspection, it was noted that the wattles the commission required were placed and recommended no further action.

Investigation into tree cutting at Stephanie Anne Lane- MM found that there was some cutting at 5 Stephanie Anne Lane and it was noted that there was an expired order of conditions that will be refiled

Newall Hill Road- Mr. Marro reviewed materials with the commission based on complaints of flooding by wetland alteration by Greg Bilowz.

5.1 Prior enforcement action items and wrap ups

6. Certificates of Compliance/Extension permits

7 Agents Report

- 7.1 Storm water updates - None DUE TO COVID LOCKDOWN
- 7.2 Forest Stewardship grant and Forest cutting update (plans)
- 7.3 Treasury Report – update
- 7.4 Town Beach Project Scopes Update (Funding)

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 845 PM by a motion of Mr. Michalak and a second by Mr. Pineo with a unanimous roll call vote approving the motion



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Public hearing
7:30 PM : Continued meeting:

7:30 PM In accordance with MGL ch 131 s 40 as amended, there will be a CONTUNED public meeting by Nick Dennis for some tree removal work at 29 Taft Road. Mr. Marro, Mr. Michalak and Mr. Emsley toured the site and agreed with the areas of cutting that were proposed. They recommended a negative determination with an added condition for cleanup work of some litter and yard materials that had blown into the wetland. MR Michalak moved for the negative determination with the cleanup conditions, MR Emsley seconded and the commission unanimously approved the motion. The motion was a roll call vote in compliance with Covid 19 requirements.

7:35 PM : In accordance with MGL ch 131 s 40 as amended, there will be a public meeting on a request for a determination made by the United States Postal Service (USPS, Applicant), who is proposing to conduct pavement resurfacing operations at the Sterling (01564) Post Office, located at 6 Clinton Road in the Town of Sterling, Massachusetts.

Thomas Ravenelle from Gordon R. Archibald, Inc. represented the post office. It was noted on the plans that there were no impacted resource areas, however, the USPS required the determination as part of its documentation. Mr. Marro noted his inspection of the site confirmed the applicants assertion. There is a wetland to the rear of the property on an abutting parcel, however it is well greater than 100 feet away and he recommended a negative determination.

Mr Michalak moved to issue the negative determination. MR. Pavlowich seconded and the commission unanimously approved the motion by roll call vote.

7:40 PM : In accordance with MGL Ch. 131 s 40 as amended, there will be a public meeting on a request for a determination made GRAZ Engineering for the replacement of a septic system at 22 Elliot Road.

Paul from GRAZ engineering represented the applicant and reviewed the storm water management system and how it conformed with the local by law. Mr. Marro noted that based on his review of the plan and an onsite inspection, he agreed with the applicant. Mr. Michalak and Mr. Pavlowich noted that a review of the drainage and storm water analysis showed no issues.



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MM also noted that the wetland resource area was across the street and located over 80 feet away and recommended a negative determination with a local storm water permit.

Mr. Michalak moved for a negative determination, Mr. Pavlowich seconded and the commission unanimously approved the motion by roll call vote.