



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@stering-ma.gov

In attendance : Chair Roberti, Vice Chair. Pineo, Mr Pavlowich, Mr Michalak, Ms. Valentine

MINUTES

STERLING CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING- December 11 2018

BUTTERICK BUILDING- Basement Level (B03) 7:30 PM

1. Meeting Notices and communications.
2. Minutes from the previous meeting- The minutes were approved by a motion of Mr. Pineo and a Second by Mr Michalak
3. Old business- Follow-up Items from Warrant articles (If any)
4. New Business-

4.1 Orchardist proposal for Waushacum Meadow- Ray Faucher, Orchardist, appeared before the commission to speak to the commission concerning the existing apple orchard. He outlined the site walk he went on accompanied by Mr. Marro. He noted that he will not cut any dying trees down as it is not a part of the proposal. He is not looking to prune the orchard for a healthy state and not production. The shape of the trees would be recaptured. He explained that the quote is 150 dollars per tree due to the amount of work involved with invasive weeds. Mr. Pineo felt that there was nothing special with the apple varieties to save. He further explained that the vines and overgrowth was causing the most damage to the trees. Chair Roberti noted he identified 40 trees- she asked if there was a possibility that he could reduce the number of trees? He said if they wanted to cut it in half (20 trees) . He stated he can do the project anytime. MM suggested do half now and see the response. With funding coming in from a forestry cut the other half could be more affordable if the initial project was successful. Messers Marro and Faucher recommended that a good start is the 20 trees in the front part of the orchard. Chair Roberti noted that Mr. Faucher's professional opinion should be trusted to decide the trees to prune. Mr. Pineo state he is against the idea and that there would be no need for the commission to walk it as he feels Mr. Faucher's judgment could be trusted and that an aesthetic cutting be the goal with productive trees used for educational purposes in the future. Ms. Valentine motioned to have Mr. Faucher prune 20 trees per the proposal. Mr Pineo seconded and the commission voted 4 yes with Mr. Pineo abstaining.

5. Enforcement/Investigation- Investigation of flooding situations at 17 Mortimer Road/Justice Hill- Pat Dell from Mortimer Road and Lynda Kelley from Justice Hill Road attended and Messers Marro and Pineo described site meetings and outlined the storm water and flooding issues. Mr. Marro noted he was informed that DCR is amenable to the town doing remedial work on the sites. After some discussion of potential state funding mechanisms for private contractors to perform the work, Mr. Marro noted to the commission the town administrator is going to explore the work needed to be done with Both Mr. Marro and Bill Tuttle. The commission instructed Mr. Marro to continue working with Mr. Tuttle and explore the site.



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6. Certificates of Compliance/Extension permits – None to present

7 Agents Report

7.1 Erosion Control on Hall Ave- update- Mr. Marro informed the commission that the erosion control is still holding up nicely.

7.2 Forest Stewardship grant and Forest cutting scope of work (proposed) MM informed the commission he will be at the Board of Selectmen's meeting tomorrow evening (12/12) with Gary Gouldrup and Mr Pineo to discuss the Tuttle Road Cutting Plan and the steps for the proposed stewardship plan for Park Street that was just approved for funding. He stated he would like to apply for a grant for a Bird Habitat Stewardship Plan for the Hall Ave Parcel.

7.3 Treasury Report – update- Mr. Marro made note of the latest report he sent to the commission from the accounting office. Another will be sent at the end of December.

8. Adjourn- The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM by a motion of Mr. Pineo and a second by Ms Valentine with a unanimous vote to approve.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

DOCUMENTS USED IN CONSIDERATION WAS A REQUEST FOR A DETERMINATION WPA FOR 1 AND A STORM WATER PROTECTION PLAN BY THOMPSON-LISTON ASSOCIATES DATED OCTOBER 22, 2018 STAMPED BY JAMES TETREAU, P.E

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 of applicability** for the construction of a parking lot within the 100 foot buffer zone at 0 Pratts Junction Road and a **Storm water permit**. The Hearing will be convened on Tuesday December 11, 2018 in the Butterick Municipal Building Room 207 at 1 Park Street, Sterling Mass 01462 at 7:40 PM. The public is invited to attend. Viewing of the plan by appointment of receiving a pdf by email is available to the public by sending an email request to mmarro@sterling-ma.gov.

James Tetreault of Thompson Liston Associates representing Stone Ridge Development. The property on the West Side of Pratts Junction Road officially known as 0 Pratts Junction Road. The site was once used for gravel extraction. The Commission examined the locus of the planned development in relation to the wetland. Mr. Tetreault located the wetland in relation to the development. He outlined some changes in the plans that were made by the reviewing engineer and outlined them for the commission. Mr. Pineo provided a current description of the area. He noted that the proposal is within the aquifer protection districts an outline the extra protections provided on site as a result.

Mr. Pavlowich reviewed the plans as well and suggested adding a second access port to the structure for maintenance. He also recommended the design engineer



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to complete some spot grading to ensure a flat spot would not be created. He also inquired on how the electric utility would be connected. Mr. Pavlowich commented that the calculations were sufficient. Mr. Marro recommended a negative determination and a standard storm water permit.

Mr. Michalak moved for a negative 3 determination and a standard storm water permit with the recommended added port. Mr. Pavlowich seconded and the commission approved with a unanimous vote.

NOTE: ALL DOCUMENTS REFERENCED AND AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS MEETING ARE AVAILABLE IN THE COMMISSION OFFICE. ELECTRONIC COPIES CAN BE OBTAINED BY EMAILING: MMARRO@STERLING-MA.GOV