



TOWN OF MERRIMAC
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
4 School Street, Merrimac, Mass. 01860
TEL: 978-891-0238

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 14, 2021
Video Conference via Zoom

Members Present: Robert Prokop, Chair; Gregory MacLean; Jerome Mathieu; William Andrulitis; and Michelle Greene, Conservation Agent

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:38 PM

Request for Certificate of Compliance (Continued) – Jana Way, f/k/a 106 West Main Street, DEP# 045-0269

Mr. Prokop introduced the site of the street to the Commission via an aerial image and shared the updated as-built plan that the applicant, Nick Palmisano, submitted. Mr. Prokop explained that the required mitigation area for the stream crossing was planted but that the original plantings did not survive however; Mr. Palmisano had the area surveyed by a wetlands scientist on October 9, 2021 who stated the area is now naturally vegetated with nearly 100% native wetland species. Mr. Prokop also shared pictures that Ms. Greene had taken earlier in the day showing the mitigation area and all three catch basins heavily vegetated.

Mr. Prokop continued that Mr. Palmisano was requesting a certificate of compliance for the construction of Jana Way as he is on the agenda for the upcoming Town Meeting on October 18, 2021 to see if the Town will accept the street and that the outstanding Order of Conditions needs to be closed before the Town could accept the street.

An inquiry was made asking if there was a stormwater plan on record with the Town for the street. Mr. Palmisano said that there was and that he would get a copy to Ms. Greene as well.

Mr. Yarranton, who was unable to access the virtual meeting, shared a concern via email that there was purple loosestrife in the mitigation area which is highly invasive. Ms. Greene advised that she did see this and estimated there to be fewer than 10 small clumps, possibly even only 10 individual plants, of purple loosestrife. The Commissioners discussed if there was any way to issue the Certificate of Compliance and require Mr. Palmisano to remove the purple loosestrife. Mr. Palmisano advised if there are invasive plants in the mitigation area, he would also like to see them removed. Ms. Greene explained that a condition could not be added to the Certificate of Compliance requiring the removal of the purple loosestrife and advised that the Commission could choose not to issue the Certificate of Compliance and could have the applicant remove the purple loosestrife but, that there were no issued conditions requiring ongoing monitoring and removal of invasive species. Ms. Greene also explained that even with the presence of the purple loosestrife, the wetlands scientist indicated the area was vegetated with nearly 100% native wetland species and the Order of Conditions stated that vegetation of 75% or more of native wetland species was required in the mitigation area. Lastly, Ms. Greene informed Mr. Palmisano that he is welcomed and encouraged to hand remove the purple loosestrife from the mitigation area and dispose of the plants offsite.

Mr. Prokop made a motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance. Mr. MacLean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Mr. Mathieu made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Andrulitis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM