



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

**Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 26, 2021**  
Video Conference via Google Meet

**Members Present:** Robert Prokop, Chair; Jon Pearson; Jerome Mathieu; Arthur Yarranton; William Andrulitis; and Michelle Greene, Conservation Agent

**The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 PM**

**Request for Insignificant Change & Plan Modification: 17 Bisson Lane, Re: Additional tree cutting & related mitigation, DEP# 045-0307**

Mr. Prokop gave a short history on the project explaining that the approved plan included the removal of one tree and mitigation but that during tree removal 4 additional trees had to be removed at the site. Mr. Pearson took over the discussion as Chair as Mr. Prokop had to recuse himself for the discussion as he is the consultant for the project. Mr. Prokop requested that the Commission offers preliminary approval in the form of a plan change for the 4 additional trees that have been cut with a mitigation plan for their replacement to follow in the spring. Mr. Prokop explained the mitigation plan will not be able to be done until the house is constructed. *The Commission was generally in favor of what was proposed.*

**New Business: Merrimac Open Space Plan, Re: request for status update on assigned actions**

Ms. Greene advised she had sent a request to the Commissioners from the Open Space Committee which sought an update on action items assigned to the Conservation Commission in the Open Space Plan. Mr. Pearson advised that as of this meeting, the Commission did not have an update to provide.

**New Business: 2-4 Mapleton, Re: Additional tree cutting, DEP# 045-301**

Ms. Greene explained she was contacted by Mr. Peter Murray who abuts the property at 1 Belmore Road over concerns that additional trees were removed at the site and that the trees that were left were damaged by limbing and site clearing creating potential hazard trees. Ms. Shannon Murray, 1 Belmore Road, was present virtually and indicated that she would like as many trees as possible to remain but that she is concerned that the trees were too damaged to survive. Mr. Prokop suggested a mitigation plan could be created to address removing the hazard trees and planting replacement trees. Ms. Greene advised she would reach out to the developer of 2-4 Mapleton Street, Mr. Robert Cormier, to ask for removal of the hazard trees and replacement trees to be planted as mitigation.

*Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve the cutting of the hazard trees then planting replacement trees as mitigation. Mr. Andrulitis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Old Business: Lot next to 6 River Road, Parcel ID: 54-1-43, Discussion Re: trenching of drainage swales**

Ms. Greene asked if the Commission would consider tabling this item pending the receipt of MA DEP comments.

*Mr. Pearson made a motion to continue the discussion to the next meeting pending the receipt of comments from MA DEP. Mr. Mathieu seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Old Business: Discuss and vote on return to in person meetings**

The Commission discussed the pros and cons of keeping meetings virtual during the COVID-19 pandemic or returning to in person meetings. A vote was not required and the Commission decided to have their next meeting be in person at the Merrimac Public Library.

**Other Business: Request from the Building Department to issue a temporary 30-day occupancy permit for 11 Belmore Road**

Ms. Greene explained that the Building Department had asked if the Commission would consider allowing them to issue a temporary 30-day occupancy permit to the property owners at 11 Belmore Road and further explained that the issued Order of Conditions indicates that an occupancy permit may not be issued until the Commission issues its Certificate of Compliance. Ms. Greene added that Ms. Alyssa Sexton in Inspectional Services advocated for the property owners indicating they have been really great to work with and have followed all requests made of them.

*The Commission generally agreed that they approved the issuance of a 30-day temporary occupancy permit prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance.*

**Informal Discussion:**

None

**Community Input:**

None

**Approval of Minutes: October 5, 2021 & Approval of Minutes: October 14, 2021**

*Mr. Andrulitis made a motion to approve the minutes of October 5, 2021 and October 14, 2021. Mr. Pearson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Correspondence:**

None

**DEP Comments:**

None

**Next Meeting: November 23, 2021**

The Commission advised that they would prefer to meet at 6:30 PM rather than 6:45 PM if it was possible. Ms. Greene advised she would check with the library

**Adjourn**

*Mr. Pearson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Andrulitis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.*