**TOWN OF MERRIMAC**

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**4 School Street, Merrimac, Mass. 01860**

**TEL: 978-891-7238 | jsmith@townofmerrimac.com**

**Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday August 25, 2024**

Merrimac Public Library – Library Meeting Room

**Members Present:** Jerome Mathieu, chair; Greg MacLean; Bill Andrulitis; Charlie Covahey: Alternate Member; Mark Leger, Alternate member and Jay Smith, Conservation Agent

**The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM**

**Public Hearing: Notice of Intent (continued): Wallace boat yard, 103R River Rd.:**

**Lay Applicant: George Lay, Re: Site clean-up and test pits**

Mr. Lay attended the meeting. The request was discussed and the plan was reviewed.

Mr. Mathieu stated that the wetland line needed to be confirmed to determine the status of the wetland as a jurisdictional isolated wetland before proceeding any further. A site walk will be scheduled to be held before the next meeting.

*With Mr. Lay’s approval Mr. Mathieu continued the Hearing until the next scheduled meeting.*

**Public Hearing: Request for Determination of Applicability (continued): 9 Little Pond Rd., Applicant: James Paull, Re: Construction of an addition, deck and stairs**

M. Paull was in attendance. The request was discussed. The wetland line had been confirmed at the site visit and the project only intrudes minimally into the buffer zone. Questions were raised regarding the placement of the materials to be dug up from the excavation and type of erosion control to be used. Two Conditions to the project were discussed that were erosion control, silt sock, to be inspected and approved before work begins, spoils from the job be kept inside the erosion control line or on the driveway and three no-disturb signs be erected along the 25ft no-disturb line.

*A motion was made to issue a Negative Determination with the Conditions stated above. The motion was seconded with a unanimous vote of approval (5-0).*

**Public Hearing: Notice of Intent: 142 River Rd.: Applicant Christensen and Sharon Ferrant, RE: Installation of a septic system.**

The applicants were in attendance. The Notice and plans were reviewed with no comments. No comments from DEP. Conditions were discussed, erosion control sock, inspected after installation and Standard Conditions.

*A motion was made to issue an Order of Conditions with the conditions mentioned. Motion was seconded and approved (5-0).*

**Discussion: Knotweed infestation at 5 Broad St.**

Kevin Priest, homeowner, presented a knotweed plan and diagram of the area as asked for. The materials were reviewed.

*The Commission with a unanimous vote allowed the applicant to remove the knotweed in accordance with the plan and required the homeowner notify the Commission if he planned to remove any within the resource areas.*

**Discussion: Merrimac Square, Old Louise Mills property: Todd Schell Owner**

Mr. Schell was in attendance. Tree cutting at his property and ground disturbance within 100ft. of a jurisdictional isolated wetland. The Commission informed him that he needed to submit an engineered plan of existing conditions and proposed work. The work would include stabilization of the bank and the planting of trees and or shrubs. The Agent would supply a list of local engineers.

*The Commission will wait until the next scheduled meeting to get an update or decide the next course of action.*

**Discussion: Main St., Merrimac Commons: Re: Knotweed infestation**

The homeowners Association would like to eradicate knotweed growing in the buffer zone to a BVW at their residents. Markers had been placed at the no-cut zone. The residents want to cut from the upland side down to the no-cut zone.

*With a unanimous decision the Commission allowed the residents to cut the area upland of the no-cut zone and told the residents that they would need to file if work was proposed within the no-cut zone or wetlands.*

**Discussion: 25 River Rd.: Paul Chang: Violation**

Mr. Chang was not in attendance. The Agent had been speaking to Mr. Chang and told him he would attend the meeting but reneged the day before the meeting. The Commission had asked Mr. Chang for an update on his progress of putting together a filing.as soon as possible.

Mr. Hockmuth volunteered to draft a new letter setting deadlines and explaining the process and ramifications of issuing an enforcement Order for failure to file with the Commission.

**Discussion: Lake Attitash Float letter**

**It came to the attention of the Commission that there was a possible violation of mooring Regs from a bottom anchored float/swim platform that may need permitting.**

*Mr. Hockmuth volunteered to write a letter to the owners of the rules governing bottom anchored floats in Great Ponds. Included in the letter will be correspondence from DEP. The letter will tell the owners that they will need to remove the float until such time a filing has been submitted a determination reached.*

**Approval of Minutes: August 28, 2024**

*Motioned to approve the minutes as drafted. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).*

**Next Meeting: September 27, 2023**

*Mr. Mathieu motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hochmuth seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.*