

**CONSERVATION
COMMISSION**

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Robert Materne, Chairman
David Evans, Vice Chair
Thomas Nicholson
Krisna Prachanronarong
Stephen Choquette
Matthew Habershaw
Matt Kershaw
Scott Pennoyer, Assoc. Mbr.
Sara Huber, Assoc. Mbr.
Daniel Roach, Agent

REHOBOTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – April 2, 2019

Present: Robert Materne, Chairman, Dave Evans, Vice Chairman, Thomas Nicholson, Krisna Prachanronarong, Stephen Choquette, Matthew Kershaw, Associate Member Sara Huber, Office Administrator Stacy L. Vilao, Daniel Roach Conservation Agent

Absent: Matt Habershaw, Associate Member Scott Pennoyer.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Materne called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the pledge of allegiance.

GENERAL BUISNESS

1. Bliss Street – Manitook Estates

Mr. Ryan DuVally was present.

Mr. Materne asked if the project was going to stay as a 40B?

Mr. DuVally stated that is the intent.

Mr. Materne stated that the site is a mess, the detention basin is not done. There is an open Order of Conditions on the property. The commission is still waiting to hear back from DEP. There are some questions in regards to the septic systems. The commission is going to meet on site with DEP on Wednesday the 10th of April.

Mr. DuVally stated that he is trying to get the project back to square one. If he does take over the project, he wants all problems taken care of then he can move forward properly.

CONCERNS & COMPLAINTS

1. 584 Winthrop Street – Concern

Mr. Russel Amaral of 75 Ivy Street, East Providence was present.

Mr. Materne stated that there was work being done on site without a permit from the commission. The fence has been put up. Erosion control needs to be put in place first.

Mr. Choquette stated that installation of the straw waddles and haybales was to be done before any other work took place.

Mr. Roach stated that the straw waddles and haybales are in place as requested and are installed correctly.

Mr. Choquette stated that the debris in the back corner is allowed to be removed, with a bobcat if needed, as well as any brush in the middle of the site.

Mr. Amaral stated that there are trees on the lot are dead and wanted to know if it is ok to remove them. There is only 1 tree on the left-hand side of the property that is near the wetlands.

Mr. Choquette stated that if the trees are dead, they should be allowed to be removed.

Mr. Materne stated near the back of the property near the pond straw waddles will also need to be installed.

2. 42 Fairfield Street – Ratify Enforcement Order

Mr. Michael Collins of 42 Fairfield Street was present.

Mr. Materne stated that the commission had been out to the property. There has been clearing taking place. The back part of the property was a forest before it was cleared. Asked Mr. Collins if he had to file for a permit would he have?

Mr. Collins replied yes.

Mr. Materne stated that the property has been out of forestry use for 3 years. So, the work you are doing is considered a change of use, a filing is needed. Most of the work being done is out of wetlands. The cleared area is going to be used as a pasture.

Mr. Nicholson stated that the wetlands need to be flagged.

Mr. Materne stated that the soil conservation services, now NRCS, could flag it or a wetland biologist would need to flag them. Once they are flagged the commission can move forward with deciding how to resolve the situation.

Mr. Evans suggested that Mr. Collins contact the Farm Bureau, tell them his intension and they can help him move forward.

Mr. Choquette asked how the water near the river was going to be protected?

Mr. Materne stated that farm roads are an exempt activity.

Mr. Choquette stated that this is not a farm, there is silt in the river from the bridge being reinforced.

Mr. Materne stated that straw waddles can be put down.

3. Dates on Concerns & Complaints for Re-visit

1. 364 Winthrop Street – the commission would visit on the first site walk in May.

2. 2 Williamsfield Lane – the commission would visit on April 14, 2019.

3. 21 New Street – would be visited on April 14, 2019.

4. 181 Winthrop Street – the commission will wait for the property owner to contact the office.

5. 367 Anawan Street – the commission will wait for the property owner to contact the office.

6. 471 Tremont Street – the commission will have Mr. Habershaw go out to the property and check on the signs.

7. 53 Water Street – the commission will visit the property the 1st meeting in May

4. Bay State Road/ Winthrop Street – Concern

Mr. Materne stated that the property owner might have used a backhoe that put leaves on a dirt pile near the wetlands. The land is in 61A it is not agricultural land. If they are composting, they need a permit from DEP. There is a large pile of dirt near the wetlands, does the commission feel it needs siltation control?

Mr. Choquette stated no; it is stabilized. Only concern is the leave litter within a 100' of the wetlands.

Mr. Roach stated that it may be a commercial composting pile, and it has to be 250' from a well.

Mr. Materne stated that a letter needs to be composed, requesting the leaves be moves, and the regulations need to be in the letter.

5. 370 Winthrop Street – Concern

Mr. Materne stated that the property is not in violation of the wetlands and can be removed from the agenda.

INVOICES

1. Badge America - \$18.00 – Daniel's Name Badge

Mr. Evans made a motion to pay the above-named invoice.

Mr. Choquette seconded the motion. Motion passes.

GENERAL BUISNESS

2. Policies – Changes - Discussion

Mr. Materne stated that the word “policies” should be changed to “regulations”.

Mr. Nicholson made a motion to change the word “policies” to be “regulations”.

Mr. Choquette seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Mr. Materne stated that during the commissions by-law workshop the Foxboro's by-laws were brought up to use as a templet for the commissions. We have found out that they are regulations not by-laws. He felt that they should be made part of the commission's regulations.

Mr. Nicholson made a motion to add the Foxboro's regulation in regards to enforcement procedure to the commission's regulations.

Mr. Choquette seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Mr. Materne read the information provided by Mr. Nicholson on what should be submitted on plans for both and RDA and on “as-built plans” for a request for a Certificate of Compliance. The only change the commission agreed to make is the plan size should be 11”X17” not 8”X10”.

Mr. Materne stated that if someone come into the office with a question on what they can and can not do on their property it should be looked at by the commission or a commissioner before the property owner can go ahead with any project. This is to verify there are no wetlands on the property that will be affected.

All conversation should be written down and both partied should agree on the written record and sign it.

Ms. Huber stated a template should be made and followed.

3. Planning Board Meeting – Update

Mr. Materne gave the commission an update as to what happened at the Planning Board meeting on March 20, 2019. The commission discussed clear cutting of trees in sub-divisions and maintenance of retention ponds in town.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Nicholson made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

For the Conservation Commission



Robert Materne, Chairman



David Evans, Vice-Chairman