

## **Conservation Commission Public Hearing Minutes – October 3, 2019**

**Time:** 7:32 p.m. – 7:55 p.m.

**Members Present:** Tom Ruskin, Chair; Toni Bandrowicz, Vice-Chair; Jonathan Grabowski, Colleen Hitchcock, Monica Lagerquist, A. Randall Hughes, Alternate

**Members Absent:** Jennifer Simon Lento; Monica Tamborini; Laura Spathanas (Selectmen Liaison)

**Location:** Swampscott Police Station, 535 Humphrey Street

The public hearing of the Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

The public hearing video was recorded.

Chair of the Commission, Tom Ruskin, gave a brief introduction.

### **1. Minutes from August 29, 2019**

MOTION: T. Bandrowicz to approve the minutes from August 29, 2019; seconded by C. Hitchcock; unanimously approved.

### **2. Notice of Intent – DEP #071-0322, Swampscott Rail Trail**

As explained at the Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> public hearing, given the interest in this project, the Commission decided to hire its own third-party consultant, Linden Engineering Partners LLC, to do a peer review of the project. Doing so not only supplements the Commission's expertise and experience, but ensures there are no conflicts and that the review of the project is done in an objective manner.

As the Commission had not yet rec'd Linden's report on Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>, which the Commission believes is necessary to have in hand before making any decisions on the project, it continued the public hearing on this project until tonight. The town agreed to this continuation.

The Commission rec'd Linden's report on Monday of this week and is in the process of reviewing it. As the Commission has not finished its review, or determining whether, based on the report more information will be needed from the Town on the project, and, if so, what that information would be, the Commission finds it necessary to continue the hearing a second time. The Town has agreed to such a continuation.

T. Bandrowicz clarified that additionally, the Town's consultant – LEC Environmental – will need to respond to and possibly revise the NOI documents as a result of the third-party report. After that, Linden Engineering will review and provide a final report to the Commission.

Under the Wetlands Protection Act, with consent of the applicant, the Commission can extend the public hearing to an unspecified future date and time within 21 days of receipt of information that the Commission needs, in this case, the final report from Linden Engineering.

MOTION: T. Bandrowicz to continue the public hearing to a date unknown at this time, but will occur within 21 days of receipt of the information needed; additionally, the future public hearing will be published and the public notified of the date and time. Seconded by C. Hitchcock; unanimously approved.

The Commission then informally spoke with members from the public who were in attendance at the meeting and who had questions about the Rail Trail NOI and the next steps in the process. Concerns about flooding along Neighborhood Road were reiterated. The Commission noted that notification letters would be mailed to the abutter list as was done for the August 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Motion to adjourn: M. Lagerquist to adjourn the meeting; seconded by J. Grabowski at 7:55 p.m.