

Conservation Commission Public Hearing Minutes – October 8, 2020

Time: 7:00 – 8:00 PM **Location:** Remote

Members Present: Toni Bandrowicz, Vice Chair; Colleen Hitchcock; Monica Lagerquist; Monica Tamborini, Jonathan Grabowski

Members Absent: Tom Ruskin, Chair; A. Randall Hughes

The public hearing of the Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:00 pm.

The public hearing was video recorded.

AGENDA

1. Notice of Intent – DEP #071-0330 (King’s Beach) – filed by Gino Cresta, Town of Swampscott, for repairs to concrete portions of existing seawall including concrete crack patching, new reinforced concrete, and filling of voids and s

G. Cresta explained the scope of the project, which will occur in three phases, and will last from six to eight weeks. He clarified that it is just simply repair, and no improvements.

MOTION: M. Tamborini to issue an Order of Conditions with no special conditions. Seconded by C. Hitchcock; unanimously approved.

2. Other Business

a. Pickleball at Linscott Park

The Commission received a letter from an abutter of Linscott Park who expressed her concerns over the makeshift Pickleball court and the noise it produces. Danielle Strauss, Director of Recreation, was present to speak further on the issue, as it was also brought to her attention. She explained that this resident ultimately wants the removal of the court from the park.

T. Bandrowicz stated, that from a conservation standpoint, Linscott Park is conservation land and can therefore only be used passively. C. Hitchcock indicated, however, that the land is used as an outdoor gym for the Hadley School, which T. Bandrowicz said it really shouldn’t be used that way. The Commission may have to go before the State in order to have the land removed from the conservation register.

D. Strauss stated that really it is the sound of the ball hitting the racket that is bothersome. C. Hitchcock inquired about potential funds for vegetation in order to buffer the sound.

T. Bandrowicz stated that it would be difficult for the Commission to deny the activity when the school is there. This issue will be taken under advisement and explored further. For the time being, the resident may be advised that the Commission is looking into construction of other courts and in the meantime will restrict hours of operation at Linscott Park.

b. 12 Williams Terrace

The Commission was notified via an abutter that the owner of this property has begun construction of a pickleball court without having sought the approval of the Commission.

The Commission determined that they would address a letter to the property owner, asking him to clarify whether the proposed court would lie within 100' of a coastal bank and/or whether the work would significantly alter the land.

c. October meetings

There will be 2 RDAs and 4 NOIs before the Commission on October 22nd. A rollover date for Monday, October 26th was agreed upon, if need be.

d. Electronic signatures

Marissa Meaney, Land Use Coordinator, to inquire at the Registry of Deeds if they are accepting electronic signatures for the time being. If yes, the Commission will agree to authorize the use of their electronic signatures for all future documents.

The public hearing of the Conservation Commission was adjourned at 8:00 pm.