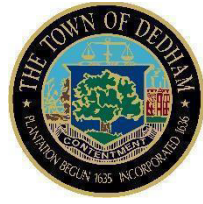


Tim Puopolo, Chair
Erik DeAvila, Vice Chair
Stephanie Radner, Clerk
Nathan Gauthier, Associate
Leigh Hafrey, Associate
Elena Taurasi, Associate



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TOWN OF DEDHAM

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of May 16, 2024

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and given the current prohibitions on gatherings imposed by Governor Baker's March 23, 2020 "Order Assuring Continued Operation of Essential Services in the Commonwealth, Closing Workplaces, and Prohibiting Gatherings of More than 10 People," this public hearing was conducted virtually, as allowed by Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law," G.L. c. 30A, §20.

The following Commissioners were present:

Tim Puopolo, Chair
Erik DeAvila, Vice Chair
Stephanie Radner, Clerk
Elena Taurasi, Associate
Nathan Gauthier, Associate
Leigh Hafrey, Associate

The following Staff were present:

Meredith LaBelle, Conservation Agent

The following Applicants and/or Representatives were present:

Fadi Fares, Applicant for 105 Rustcraft Road
Paul Lindholm, Representative for 105 Rustcraft Road
Edward J. Musto, Applicant for 20 and 35 Shuttleworth Place
John Joyce, Applicant for 214 Lowder Street
Mike Toohill, Representative for Dedham Country and Polo Club
Joe Onorato, Representative for Jackson Pond and Aranow-Martin Pond
Giorgio Petruziello, Applicant for 2 Burgess Lane
Angelo Bottello, Representative for 2 Burgess Lane
Thomas Liddy, Representative for 2 Burgess Lane

Commissioner Puopolo called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, the Dedham Wetlands Bylaw, and the Dedham Stormwater Management Bylaw.

AGENDA:

1. Public Comment

Commissioner Puopolo opened the floor for any questions or general comments from members of the public. Commissioner Puopolo explained that there would also be opportunities for public comment

during each agenda item. There was no response and the Commission proceeded to the next agenda item.

2. Request for Extension

2.1. 105 Rustcraft Road – DEP 141-0526 – New SFD

Applicant: Fadi and Sandy Fares

Representative: Paul Lindholm, P.E.

Commissioner Puopolo introduced the project, stating that it was originally permitted as an addition to an existing single-family dwelling. He stated that the applicants were seeking a second extension on this permit, following the expiration of the initial extension. He invited the applicants to describe the status of the project and the ongoing work.

Project representative Paul Lindholm, a civil engineer, stated that the project has a long history going back to 2017. He explained that the site is across the street from an intermittently dry pond bed, with a large wetland area directly to the east of the site. He stated that the construction of the project was completed during the originally permitted period, however delays in the site work have held up the completion of the project. He described the delays as being related to challenges with complying with stormwater management requirements. He explained that the site has poorly-draining soil conditions as well as high groundwater. Fadi Fares stated that his intent was to have the project completed within two years.

Commissioner Puopolo stated that hopefully the project can meet this timeline. He stated that with the issuance of the extension, he would like to see a refreshment/replacement of erosion controls on site to ensure they function properly and “housekeeping” work including cleaning up debris on site. He then opened the floor to any other Commissioners who had questions about the project.

Commissioner Gauthier shared that a waiver would be needed for the project permit to be extended a second time given that the bylaws limit projects to a single extension. He also raised a concern that the project remain within the scope of the originally approved plans.

Mr. Lindholm responded that he plans on returning to the Commission with a request for modification on the stormwater management system, but would first like to obtain an extension so he can proceed with the modification request at a later meeting.

Commissioner Puopolo confirmed that, for the revised work, the applicant would need to work with Stormwater Manager Patrick Hogan to develop a revised set of plans and that these revised plans would have to be presented before the Commission before the work as revised is implemented.

Mr. Lindholm agreed that the project would follow the proper steps as described by the Commissioners. He stated that he and the applicants would like to request a waiver from the one extension limit.

Agent LaBelle explained the waiver process in this case, stating the Commissioners would need to vote to waive the requirement that the applicant file a new Notice of Intent for the project, then they would need to vote to grant the extension.

Commissioner Radner asked that the waiver request for a second extension be formally submitted to the Commission in writing. She went on to say that a waiver request for a second extension might not be necessary as long as the letter states the fact that the Commissioners are using their discretion to grant a second extension. She stated that if the installation of stormwater control measures would result in disturbance of the wetland resource area, a waiver request would need to be submitted for this disturbance as well.

Commissioner Radner made a motion to approve the request for another two-year extension, with the condition that a letter be submitted stating that this is a second request that the Commissioners were allowing at their discretion. Commissioner Puopolo seconded the motion. Commissioner Puopolo led a

roll call vote. All Commissioners present voted “aye”, with the exception of Commissioner Gauthier who abstained on procedural grounds, and **the motion passed by a 5-0 vote.**

2.2. 20 Shuttleworth Place – DEP 141-0548 – New SFD

Applicant: Edward J. Musto

Commissioner Puopolo stated that the applicant, Edward Musto, was coming before the Commission for a pair of new single family development projects being considered separately. The first of these two project extensions to be heard before the Commission was for 20 Shuttleworth Place.

Mr. Musto explained that some aspects of the site work, including septic and stormwater system installation, were still in progress. He stated that he was requesting an extension of the project OOC due to these delays.

Commissioner Puopolo asked Mr. Musto to confirm that there were no modifications to the project compared to the originally permitted project plan. Mr. Musto replied in the affirmative.

Commissioner Puopolo asked Mr. Musto to confirm that an extension of 18 months would be sufficient to complete the project. Mr. Musto replied in the affirmative.

Commissioner Radner inquired if Mr. Musto would like to request a longer extension in case the project took longer than requested. Mr. Musto replied that 18 months should be sufficient.

Commissioner Radner asked if the erosion and sediment controls were still in place. Mr. Musto replied in the affirmative.

Commissioner Gauthier made a motion to approve the request for an 18-month extension for 20 Shuttleworth Place. Commissioner DeAvila seconded the motion. Commissioner Puopolo led a roll call vote. All Commissioners present voted “aye” and **the motion passed by a 6-0 vote.**

2.3. 35 Shuttleworth Place – DEP 141-0549 – New SFD

Applicant: Edward J. Musto

Commissioner Puopolo introduced the 35 Shuttleworth Place Request for Extension, stating that the project was being completed in tandem with the 20 Shuttleworth Place project and was thus very similar.

Mr. Musto confirmed that this project was facing the same delays as the 20 Shuttleworth Place project.

Commissioner Radner made a motion to approve the request for an 18-month extension for 35 Shuttleworth Place. Commissioner Puopolo seconded the motion. Commissioner Puopolo led a roll call vote. All Commissioners present voted “aye” and **the motion passed by a 6-0 vote.**

2.4. 214 Lowder Street (Horrigan Drive) – DEP 141-0583 – Planned Residential Development (PRD)

Applicant: John Joyce, Old Grove Partners Representative: John McNamara, Old Grove Partners

Commissioner Puopolo introduced the project, stating that the Order of Conditions was originally approved in 2021 for construction of a 26 unit development. He invited the project representatives to provide updates on the status of the project and to confirm that there were no modifications of the project compared with the originally permitted plans.

John Joyce, representative with Old Grove Partners, described the project. He stated that 3 residents were already residing within the development, with 11 units were under agreement and other units still to be constructed. He stated that the project required a 3 year extension to be completed due unexpected delays with other permitting processes and with the discovery of ledge on the site that

complicated construction. Mr. Joyce stated that the 3-year period was sufficient for completing the development and that no changes were proposed compared to the project as permitted.

Commission Radner asked if the footprints of the houses had changed, as she noted that the square footage of the houses as listed on realty web sites was greater than the originally planned size.

Mr. Joyce responded that the basements that were responsible for the square footage increase were an optional purchase by the homeowners and that this feature had been approved by the Planning Board.

Commissioner Gauthier made a motion to approve the request for a 3-year extension for Horrigan Drive. Commissioner Gauthier seconded the motion. Commissioner Puopolo led a roll call vote. All Commissioners present voted “aye” and **the motion passed by a 6-0 vote.**

3. Request for Certificate of Compliance

3.1. 124 Country Club Road (DCPC) – DEP-141-0617 – 8th Hole Cart Path

Applicant: Carlton Henry, Superintendent, Dedham Country and Polo Club Representative: Mike Toohill, Coneco Engineers & Scientists

Commissioner Puopolo introduced the project, stating that the OOC for the 8th hole cart path was issued in 2023.

Mike Toohill, project representative, stated that the cart path had been completed, including installation of 7 Highbush Blueberries (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) as mitigation plantings along the wetland edge near the cart path. He described the path as a gravel path.

Agent LaBelle stated that Carlton Henry had in fact planted Highbush Blueberries and that there were no issues with the project from her perspective.

Commissioner Gauthier made a motion to close the public hearing and issue the Certificate of Compliance for the 8th hole cart path at Dedham Country and Polo Club. Commissioner Radner seconded the motion. Commissioner Puopolo led a roll call vote. All Commissioners present voted “aye” and **the motion passed by a 6-0 vote.**

3.2. Jackson Pond – Jackson Pond Road – DEP 141- 0497 – Aquatic Management Program

Applicant: Walter Cabot – Jackson Pond Condominium Trust Representative: Joe Onorato, Water and Wetland

Commissioner Puopolo introduced the applicant and the project representative, inviting them to describe the project.

Joe Onorato, project representative from Water & Wetland, stated that the project had resulted in improved conditions within Jackson Pond, however more time would be needed to meet aquatic management plan goals and that this project would be ongoing for the foreseeable future. He stated that the decision was made to not request to extend the project and to file a new Notice of Intent instead. He explained that, prior to Water and Wetland’s involvement in the project, hydro-raking and other measures were used to clear nuisance vegetation from the pond. Mr. Onorato stated that the focus of the project since Water and Wetland’s involvement was on nutrient management rather than algae treatment, given that nuisance algae concentrations ultimately result from elevated phosphorous levels. He stated that the pond catches stormwater, which may carry in excess nutrients from the surrounding environment. He stated that the condo association had to date done a good job of using landscaping best management practices around the pond.

Mr. Onorato stated that the treatment used thus far has been a phosphorous binding agent that removes the nutrient from the water column. He explained that the treatment has been very successful and that

Water and Wetland had found no need to use algaecides or herbicides thus far to manage growth. He stated that the phosphorous levels in the pond had declined significantly over the treatment period. He stated that two nuisance plants were issues on the site and were being treated- Purple Loosestrife treated via hand pulling, and Bladderwort treated with diquat and raking, though there had been no need for diquat use in the last year of treatment.

The Commissioners expressed hope that beetles previously introduced as a Purple Loosestrife biological control would increase in population and successfully control this invasive species.

Commissioner Gauthier made a motion to close the public hearing and issue the Certificate of Compliance for the aquatic management plan to date at Jackson Pond. Commissioner Hafrey seconded the motion. Commissioner Puopolo led a roll call vote. All Commissioners present voted “aye” and **the motion passed by a 6-0 vote.**

4. New Applications

4.1. Jackson Pond – Jackson Pond Road – DEP 141 – 0629 – Aquatic Management Program

Applicant: Joseph Dello Russo – Jackson Pond Condominium Trust Representative: Joe Onorato, Water and Wetland

Commissioner Puopolo introduced the application for the updated aquatic management program at Jackson Pond, asking the representative to explain any differences with the previous management program.

Joe Onorato, project representative from Water & Wetland, explained that this Notice of Intent was for maintenance and monitoring of the ecological health of Jackson Pond. This work would include: year-end reports detailing water quality measurements and management work completed, use of a phosphorous binding agent to reduce phosphorous levels in the pond when necessary, diquat for treatment of Bladderwort when needed, and hand pulling of Purple Loosestrife- reserving the option of using herbicides if Purple Loosestrife becomes too populous to control by hand pulling. He explained that throw raking was no longer being proposed.

Commissioner Puopolo asked Mr. Onorato how many herbicides were listed on the application. Mr. Onorato stated that 3 or so herbicides were listed, but that the aim was to use the bare minimum amount of herbicides for the project. Commissioner Puopolo stated that he was happy to hear that the work would minimize herbicide use, as this also minimizes potential harm to wildlife from herbicides.

Commissioner Radner asked if the pond had any outflows and if the work to reduce phosphorous concentrations could also be beneficial to the Town of Dedham’s efforts to reduce phosphorous loading to the Charles and Neponset Rivers. Mr. Onorato stated that there was indeed a small outflow, but that the phosphorous binding agent would not likely have major downstream effects as it very quickly binds to phosphorous after use and sinks to the bottom of the water body.

Commissioner DeAvila asked Mr. Onorato to confirm that regular reports would be submitted to the Conservation Agent. Mr. Onorato responded in the affirmative.

Commissioner Radner asked if Water and Wetland would be sampling water quality at different points around the pond and if so, if phosphorous varies across different locations within Jackson Pond. Mr. Onorato explained that for a smaller pond like Jackson Pond, water quality samples would generally be gathered from a single location in the middle of the pond, so they would not be able to determine if some areas had higher phosphorous concentrations than others.

Commissioner Radner thanked Mr. Onorato for describing the Bladderwort as a nuisance and not an invasive, explaining that, among the many Bladderwort species, many are native and some are even threatened with extinction. She expressed her hope that the Water and Wetland team would make an

effort to identify and safeguard any endangered Bladderwort species they happened to encounter in the pond. Mr. Onorato stated that the main target species of Bladderwort was an invasive species.

Commissioner Radner stated that she was impressed with the significant decrease in phosphorous levels in the pond.

Commissioner Radner made a motion to close the public hearing and approve the Order of Conditions for the aquatic management plan at Jackson Pond as drafted. Commissioner Hafrey seconded the motion. Commissioner Puopolo led a roll call vote. All Commissioners present voted “aye” and **the motion passed by a 6-0 vote.**

4.2. 2 Burgess Lane – DEP 141-0632 – Culvert Repair

Applicant: Giorgio Petruziello, Supreme Development Representative: Angela Botto, Bohler Engineering; Tom Liddy, Lucas Environmental

Commissioner Puopolo asked the applicant and representative to introduce themselves and describe the project.

Angela Botto, the project representative from Bohler Engineering, introduced herself and Tom Liddy, the wetlands consultant on the project from LEC Environmental. Ms. Botto explained that the existing 2’x2’ culvert on Burgess Lane near the intersection with West St. had recently failed and that the street had been experiencing flooding during rain events as a result.

Ms. Botto described the proposed work as being a replacement of the existing culvert with a 2’x6’ box culvert. She stated that the current proposal addressed the concerns raised in a DEP comment letter. She then opened the floor to Tom Liddy to explain how the project had been designed to conform with the WPA and Dedham Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

Mr. Liddy explained that the stream in question had been assessed as intermittent for purposes of WPA protection (i.e. this stream would not be afforded riverfront protections). He showed images demonstrating the extent of damage and alteration of the stream path, including erosion and sheet flow across the roadway.

Mr. Liddy stated that it would be difficult for the project to fully meet the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards without burdensome alterations to the existing roadway. He explained that the requirement for culvert width based on the bank-full width calculation would be 16’, which wouldn’t be feasible given the scope of the project. He argued that, while the proposed culvert would not meet the Stream Crossing Standards, the project would be a significant improvement, significantly increasing the flow capacity and clearance of the culvert. This could improve the pass-ability for wildlife species.

Commissioner Puopolo stated that he understood the inability for the culvert to be wide enough to meet the Standards given the circumstances. He asked for clarification regarding the challenges of increasing the culvert height as they relate to conflict with utilities passing through the project site.

Ms. Botto responded that there are both water line and sewer line crossings at the stream crossing location. She stated that the reasoning for not increasing the depth/height of the culvert was that this would not be possible without disturbing these utility lines. Commissioner Puopolo agreed that this was sound reasoning.

Commissioner Puopolo explained that the applicant had filed a waiver request for work in the buffer area, which would make sense given that the work was entirely sited within a stream. He stated his opinion that the applicants had adequately addressed the DEP comments on the initial RDA submission with the current revision. He inquired whether Agent LaBelle had any concerns about the application as submitted.

Agent LaBelle stated that the current application addressed her concerns. She stated that the updated application contained a cross section diagram per request from MaDEP and asked that it be displayed for the Commission to review.

Mr. Liddy displayed the cross-sectional diagram of the proposed stream crossing. Commissioner Puopolo asked if the standard of natural materials used along the bottom of the crossing would be met. Both Mr. Liddy and Ms. Botto confirmed that natural materials would be used.

Commissioner Puopolo asked what controls would be in place to prevent the stream from causing excess erosion and turbidity during the construction project. Mr. Liddy explained that the project would follow the standard practice of temporarily rerouting the stream around the construction area using hoses. He noted that if gravity flow is not sufficient to redirect the flow, a pump system could be used.

He also noted that during the excavation, groundwater would likely enter the work zone. He explained that any such groundwater would be pumped to a small secondary pond where sediment would be allowed to settle out, with less turbid overflow being reintroduced to the stream channel downstream.

In terms of site restabilization following construction of the culvert, Mr. Liddy stated that native wetland plant seed mix would be planted on all disturbed areas at the site. He expressed confidence that the ecological health of the site would rebound quickly following the work.

Mr. Liddy acknowledged that the Commissioners may have concerns about the dewatering plan (i.e. rerouting water around the work site during work). He suggested the addition of a permit condition that requires the contractor to submit a formal work plan to the Conservation Agent prior to the start of work.

Commissioner Puopolo opened the floor for questions from the Commissioners as well as opening the floor for questions or comments from members of the public.

Commissioner Radner asked if there was any additional damage in the buffer zone that would have work completed. Mr. Liddy responded that numerous trees had come down on the site, and that reseeded would occur in disturbed areas.

Commissioner Gauthier inquired what would be done with the fallen trees. Giorgio Petruziello, applicant, responded that most of the fallen trees had already been removed from the site, and that any remaining trees would be removed from the site once the culvert had been replaced. Commissioner Gauthier stated that the Commission generally requests that applicants leave fallen trees in place as long as they are not causing any issues on site.

Commissioner DeAvila stated that he was familiar with the area and that he had witnessed significant flooding resulting from the culvert damage and that the project would be an improvement.

Commissioner Radner reiterated Commissioner Gauthier's point that retaining fallen and standing dead trees on site is beneficial to the wetland habitat. She made a suggestion that the applicant plant native trees on site to restore the water uptake capacity of the fallen trees, clarifying that this was a suggestion and in no way a binding requirement.

Commissioner Puopolo voiced his support for Commissioner Radner's recommendation to plant trees. He asked the Commissioners if they would like to follow up with Commissioner Gauthier's concerns about keeping fallen trees on site. Commissioner DeAvila stated his support for keeping the logs on site, but stated that the stumps seemed to be a hazard and would likely need to be removed. Commissioner Taurasi concurred with Commissioner DeAvila's statement. Mr. Liddy asked if the final determination on which fallen trees could be removed and which should stay on site could be made by Agent LaBelle at a pre-construction site visit.

Commissioner Radner stated that in cases where the structure of the road and the culvert were threatened, those could be removed, but that it is a requirement that fallen logs be retained on site for their habitat value without regard for any aesthetic considerations.

Mr. Petruziello explained the rationale for removing the stumps from the site. Commissioner Radner stated that moving the stumps would be preferable and that any logs not adjacent to the road should be left on site.

Commissioner Radner made a motion to close the public hearing and grant a waiver for work in the resource area at the site on Burgess Lane. Commissioner DeAvila seconded the motion. Commissioner Puopolo led a roll call vote. All Commissioners present voted “aye” and **the motion passed by a 6-0 vote.**

Commissioner Radner made a motion to approve the Order of Conditions for the culvert repair on Burgess Lane with the Special Condition that the contractor submit a water diversion and dewatering plan before work begins. Commissioner DeAvila seconded the motion. Commissioner Puopolo led a roll call vote. All Commissioners present voted “aye” and **the motion passed by a 6-0 vote.**

5. Continued Applications

5.1. 210 Highland St – DEP 141-0631 – Aranow Pond Aquatic Management Program

Applicant: Pat Profeta and Robert Aranow Representative: Mark Rubin, Goddard Consulting

Mark Rubin, project representative described the current issues with the ecological health of the pond, explaining that Watermeal and Duckweed as well as occasional algal blooms had resulted in a generally poor environment for wildlife and native vegetation. He stated that the goal of the project was to improve the habitat and scenic character of the pond by continuing a management plan that has been ongoing for several decades. He stated that landscaping best practices were being maintained by the homeowners, but that ongoing management was necessary to reduce nuisance vegetation abundance and reduce eutrophication. He explained that vegetation surveys would be carried out before and after the treatment and that these surveys would be shared with the Commission. He also stated that reports would be submitted to the Commission or its Agent on an annual basis.

Joe Onorato, of Water and Wetland, explained that he would likely be completing the management of this project. He described the management techniques to be used, including sonar treatment for Watermeal and Duckweed treatment as well as KT algacide to treat occasional algal blooms. He stated that several other chemicals were listed on the application so that the contractor would have numerous options for treatment.

Mr. Onorato elaborated on the potential use of glyphosate herbicides to treat invasive Purple Loosestrife growing along the pond edge, which was asked about in a DEP-issued comment for the project. He stated that glyphosate use would be minimized by the contractors on the project, with hand pulling being the first choice for management of Purple Loosestrife.

He stated that the pond has an outlet at the northern edge leading to a culvert, and that the outlet would be blocked using sandbags during the treatment periods.

Commissioner Puopolo explained that these responses answered his concerns.

Commissioner DeAvila asked if the list of herbicides could be narrowed down to the herbicides that would likely be used. Joe Onorato from Water and Wetland explained that the goal of treatment was to reach a balanced assemblage of native plant growth and that an overabundance of a wide range of species- not just invasives- could be problematic for pond health. He stated that the long list of herbicides in the application was intended to allow for flexibility in treating this wide range of species. He stated that herbicide usage would be minimized.

Commissioner Radner asked if any fertilizer was being used on site and if notification of treatments used would be given to Dedham Conservation before or after treatments. Mr. Onorato responded that fertilizer was not being used on the property. He stated that either notification method would be acceptable, but that having pre-treatment notification requirements can cause delays and inefficiencies for the project. Commissioner Radner stated that this explanation was helpful in addressing her concerns.

Commissioner Gauthier made a motion to close the public hearing and issue the Order of Conditions for the aquatic management project at Aranow Pond as drafted. Commissioner DeAvila seconded the motion. Commissioner Puopolo led a roll call vote. All Commissioners present voted “aye” and **the motion passed by a 6-0 vote.**

6. Minutes

The Commissioners discussed the minutes from the previous meeting and a site walk at Town Forest. Commissioner Radner stated that, in the minutes for the Town Forest site walk, she wanted the wording describing Sessile Bellwort as rare to be updated to reflect the fact that it is not endangered. She added that the plant is both beautiful and noteworthy.

Commissioner Gauthier made a motion to approve the minutes for the 05/02/2024 meeting and the 05/15/2024 site walk, with the change suggested by Commissioner Radner. Commissioner Radner seconded the motion. Commissioner Puopolo led a roll call vote. All Commissioners present voted “aye” and **the motion passed by a 6-0 vote.**

7. Open Space and Recreation Sub-Committee Updates

Commissioner DeAvila provided updates on the Open Space Sub-Committee’s work. The first update was that the Open Space Sub-Committee was seeking to post and fill its open seats and that the Sub-Committee was still waiting for another Conservation Commission member to be appointed to the Sub-Committee. Commissioner Taurasi expressed interest in joining, however she stated that she would need more information about Open Space’s purpose and function before she considered joining. Commissioner Radner offered to serve as a consultant to the Sub-Committee; however, she would not serve as a Sub-Committee member. She stated that she would like to see Open Space focus its efforts on improving access to open spaces around town while mitigating negative human impacts on these open spaces. She expressed that the Open Space Plan update process could become slow and cumbersome. She stated that ConCom’s role in Open Space’s work could be to coordinate with Town staff to implement projects.

Commissioner DeAvila added that the Town’s Procurement Director could be a great resource for the Sub-Committee. Commissioner Radner added that public outreach and communication would be another beneficial use of Open Space’s efforts.

Commissioner Taurasi stated that she would likely attend an Open Space meeting before making a decision about joining.

Commissioner DeAvila explained that the new Open Space GIS system was ready for testing and asked if the Commissioners would be interested in testing the system out. The Commissioners agreed to test the GIS system out.

Commissioner DeAvila stated that Bob LoPorto, Open Space member, had coordinated a number of successful litter clean-ups around town and that these cleanups were ongoing.

Commissioner DeAvila then shared an idea for a seminar that would provide ecological best management practices training for people in Dedham, including landscapers, contractors, developers, and any

interested residents. He proposed that this seminar led to issuance of a certificate from Dedham Conservation. The subject matter of this training could include Wetland bylaws, invasive species education, and other environmental topics. He suggested having guest speakers from organizations such as MACC or DEP, as well as Conservation staff give presentations to the audience. He stated that this training could help to reduce incidence of wetlands violations. He proposed the event be scheduled for late winter before the outdoor work season gets busy.

Commissioner Radner expressed her support for the idea. Agent LaBelle suggested creating certification cards to hand out to participants.

Commissioner Puopolo introduced the topic of the Town Forest site walk, stating that it was good for the Open Space members and Conservation Commissioners to spend time getting to know the current state of this Town conservation land. He suggested that a future site walk at a different Town property could be a good way to introduce new Open Space members.

8. Bylaw and Regulation Update Discussion

Several Commissioners stated that they had not had the chance to review the updates in depth. Agent LaBelle stated that this would be the first of many conversations on the updates, so she would simply give a brief overview of the changes at this time.

While Agent LaBelle pulled up the red-line version of the proposed bylaw changes on her screen, Commissioner Gauthier gave a quick update on the Water Resources Advisory Committee, stating that the first meeting would be on June 11th.

Agent LaBelle introduced the updates, stating that the Bylaw was last updated in 2013 and that the Rules and Regulations were last updated in 2003. She stated that she believed the best practice moving forward would be to update these documents every 10 years or so. She explained that she had implemented updates based on her own deliberation, as well as suggestions from the previous Conservation Agent. She noted that the updates had not yet been checked by the town's legal counsel.

She stated that revisions could be carried out in several rounds before the updates are put before the Commission for a vote.

Agent LaBelle proceeded to walk the Commissioners through the changes to the Bylaw, including adding in-kind replacement of sewer infrastructure to the list of activities exempted from the Bylaw. Commissioner DeAvila expressed concern that adding this exemption could result in wetland harm. The Commissioners deliberated and reviewed the language, deciding to retain this change.

Other proposed changes to the Bylaw included:

- adding language that makes it easier for applicants to request continuation of RDAs;
- clarifying language around requirements that applicants contact other boards and departments;
- codifying the requirement that applicants record issued permits at the Registry of Deeds;
- stating the Commission's ability to grant additional permit extensions at their discretion;
- removing the filing fee schedule from the Bylaw and moving this to the Bylaw Rules & Regulations;

The Commission decided to review the changes to the Rules and Regulations at the next meeting.

9. Agent's Report

Agent LaBelle stated that she issued two Administrative Approvals on behalf of the Commission. She explained that a large Pine tree had come down on the yard of 100 Village Avenue adjacent to a pond and that, after discussion with an arborist, it was agreed that some sections of the tree would be removed from the site while others would be left on site. The second Administrative Approval was for a potentially

hazardous American Beech tree growing close to the home at 220 Stoney Lea Road. She explained that the tree was diseased and that it was agreed to allow the tree to be cut down.

Agent LaBelle stated that the positions for the two Resource Associate members and the Associate member vacancy had been posted online.

Agent LaBelle then shared that she was in the ordering process for small land boundary signs.

She invited the Commissioners to take any MACC courses they were interested in, as these courses are covered under the Conservation budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.