



## Medfield Conservation Commission

Town Hall · 459 Main Street · Medfield, Massachusetts 02052-2009

### Minutes of Public Meeting, March 2, 2023 at 7:00pm

*This meeting was held virtually via Zoom, pursuant to Senate Bill #2985,  
Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law*

**Members Present:** Chair Deborah Bero, Michael Perloff, Bobby Kennedy, Kirsten Poler

**Members Absent:** Cat Scott

**Staff Present:** Interim Agent Bob Hartzel, Town Planner, Sarah Raposa

**Others Present:** John Woodhall, Zeus Smith (Charles River Watershed Association, CRWA), Robert Kearns (CRWA), Kerry Snyder (Neponset River Watershed Association, NRWA), Jackie Alford, Megan Sullivan, Jeff Hyman, Teresa Prego

At approximately 7:00pm, Chair Deborah Bero called the Conservation Commission meeting to order and performed a roll call for attendance.

#### I. Announcements

- An applicant for a position on the Conservation Commission (John Woodhull) is in attendance at tonight's hearing.
- Resignation of Commissioner Mary McCarthy. The Conservation Commission is actively seeking to fill openings for both full Commissioner members and Associate Commissioners. Applicants should submit a letter of interest to both the Town Administrator and Conservation Commission.
- All Conservation Commission meetings are remote; however, the office is still open. Please call ahead if you need to come in.
- There is a possibility that in-person public meetings of the Conservation Commission will resume after March 31, 2023. Please check with the town website for any updates.

#### II. Presentations

1. Zeus Smith from CRWA shared his screen and introduced Robert Kearns to present the agenda for the joint CRWA/NRWA presentation on Climate Resilience, Community Partnerships and Initiatives. Mr. Kearns introduced Ms. Snyder and the presentation followed. Ms. Bero asked if they could explain stormwater utilities as presented at a recent Board of Health meeting. Ms. Snyder provided an overview of what other Massachusetts towns have done to date with regard to establishing stormwater utilities. Mr. Kennedy asked about permit requirements for phosphorus control and how much it is

going to cost the Town. Ms. Snyder provided a general explanation of the factors that drive phosphorus control costs, including phosphorus sources from private properties. Because these private parcels are typically not taxed for treatment of such pollutant loads (e.g., via a stormwater utility), this puts a burden on municipal budgets for MS4 permit-required treatment.

2. Ms. Alford from Sustainable Medfield shared a presentation on the group's recent work and initiatives. An important focus of Sustainable Medfield is to collaborate with Town committees, boards, commissions, businesses, etc. to improve sustainability. Many households, companies and organizations from Medfield have become involved and this network is continuing to grow. Ms. Alford provided an overview of the [Sustainable Medfield](#) website and the resources it provides to support sustainability efforts for individuals and groups. Ms. Sullivan offered to collaborate further with the Conservation Commission on these issues.
3. Mr. Hyman from the proposed Medfield Groundwater Protection Advisory Committee introduced himself and his background. He discussed the work that members of the proposed committee have been doing and how they would like to collaborate with the Conservation Commission. Ms. Prego introduced herself and discussed her background and goals for the proposed Advisory Committee.

Mr. Bero noted that the Select Board recommended the proposed Advisory Committee members should meet with Town Boards, Commissions and Committees for feedback. Mr. Kennedy stated he would like to hear about the feedback received and suggested this information could be presented to the Conservation Commission at a future meeting. Ms. Bero commented that the proposed Advisory Committee could potentially assist the Conservation Commission with public outreach/education, but that technical guidance is typically provided through peer review consultants. Mr. Hartzel asked for clarification on the primary purpose and mission of the proposed Advisory Committee and Mr. Hyman responded in detail.

### III. Updates /Discussion Items

1. Ms. Bero requested authorization of a transfer of \$10,000 from the Wetlands Protection Act Fund to pay CEI's invoice for Interim Conservation Agent services.

Mr. Perloff motioned for the approval of the transfer of \$10,000.

Ms. Poler seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Poler, aye, Mr. Kennedy, aye, Mr., Perloff, aye, Ms. Bero, aye. (4-0)

2. Ms. Raposa has taken a new position with the Town of Mansfield. She will continue working with the Town on a part-time basis as she transitions into her new job.
3. Ms. Bero asked Commission members to read sections eight and nine and provide feedback. The draft OSRP is scheduled for completion by June 30, 2023. There is an ongoing effort to evaluate and update the status of properties under Conservation Commission stewardship and other open space/recreation properties owned by the Town.

4. Ms. Bero mentioned that the Medfield Legacy Fund has a grant opportunity with applications accepted through March 17, 2023. Ms. Bero noted that this timeline may not be feasible.
5. Mr. Hartzel stated several anticipated permit applications are pending submittal. A revised pond management proposal from Solitude for summer 2023 is also pending.
6. Ms. Bero noted that increasing signage on Conservation lands and establishing Conservation land regulations could be useful tools for informing the public of authorized and unauthorized uses of Conservation lands.
7. The continued hearing for 26-30 Millbrook Road may be on the agenda for the March 16, 2023 public meeting.
8. The next Millbrook hearing date, whether March 16 or later, will be published in the newspaper, and abutters will receive new notices of the hearing date by mail. All Commissioners who attend the forthcoming 26-30 Millbrook Road hearings in compliance with the Mullen Rule will be able to participate and vote on this project.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

Mr. Kennedy motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:10 PM.

Mr. Perloff seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0 (Ms. Poler, Mr. Perloff, aye, Mr. Kennedy, aye, Ms. Bero, aye)

Respectfully submitted,  
Cara Wise, Administrative Assistant