

**Members Present:** Justin Richardson, Peggy Lamson, Doreen Stern, George Fletcher, and Nancy Cauvet

**Members Absent:** Dorothy Watson

**Also Present:** Ellen Saas, Eric Weinrieb, Mick Sheffield, and T. Morgan

**Commencement:** Chairman Richardson opened the al fresco meeting at 6:34 PM.

**Great Bay Marine** filed a standard dredge/fill application with DES in order to repair the stone rip-rap along the shore. The proposed repair is designed to withstand hurricane-force winds. Mr. Weinrieb proposed a chain along the top of the bank in order to prevent pedestrians from wandering over the edge. There was a general discussion of the view that a fence was not a structure as defined by the shoreland protection act, but that it might nevertheless require a permit as it is in the 100-foot coastal buffer. Richardson moved to recommend approval to DES, noting that the commission supports the erection of a small fence. Lamson seconded. All in favor.

**National Tire & Battery (NTB)** proposes the clearing of vegetation at the front of their property. Mick Sheffield of Labrie Associates, the firm that handled a similar project for the adjacent Olive Garden property, spoke to the proposal. Sheffield noted that BMP's for landscaping would be appropriate in this situation, however such standards have yet to be adopted. Sheffield proposed the clearing of the remaining small-diameter vegetation. These lower quality trees will be cut by hand, and then chipped on site. He will preserve the larger trees, numbering about a dozen.

The Commission reviewed the situation in light of the zoning ordinance, Article X, which establishes a no disturb buffer around wetlands but allows forestry in compliance with best management practices.

There has been no stumping or soil disturbance in wetlands or wetlands buffers. Mr. Sheffield stated that clearing for the project will be in compliance with the basal area requirement of the wetlands ordinance. He indicated also that NTB desires to loam some areas that may involve use of equipment. It was indicated by the Commission that the use of heavy equipment or disturbing soils may conflict with the Zoning Ordinance and that the details would need to be reviewed before that would take place.

After discussion and consultation with Mr. Sheffield, Cauvet moved that the Commission recommend that NTB be allowed to continue the clearing for the project in compliance with the Best Management Practices required by the Zoning Ordinance and in compliance with the basal area requirements of the ordinance, retaining the approximately 12 trees that have been flagged to be retained, and that a landscape plan should be submitted by the applicant or prior to loaming or disturbing soils in wetlands or the wetlands buffer. Lamson seconded. All in favor.

**Birch Tree:** Lamson moved to advise the Selectmen that the loam and mulch that were recently placed adjacent to the birch tree at the Town Hall entry are killing the tree. Richardson seconded. All in favor.

**School Landscaping:** The Commission recessed from the Town Hall picnic table, and ventured over to the site of the tree blow-down at the Newington School. The commission reviewed Robbi Woodburn's plans and would like them revised based on the following comments. When the plans are revised, a meeting will be scheduled with all stakeholders in order to finalize the plans and move forward.

- 1) No arborvitae. The Commission members are not fans of these due to limited wildlife value, ice damage, etc. More variety was suggested.
- 2) Scotch Pine was one suggestion to consider in lieu of arborvitae.
- 3) A question was raised as to whether sugar maples would be viable due to the potential for salt in the area proposed.
- 4) More variety was suggested in the cornus (shrub) area... the following were mentioned as suggestion: Ilex verticellata, viburnum, star magnolia.
- 5) It is suggested that landscaped areas be set further back from Nimble Hill Road, which may need to be expanded for a bike path. There are utility poles on the school side of the road. A 20-foot setback was suggested. The plans show 10-15.
- 6) It was suggested to have several species of trees along the school driveway.

**GSM:** Richardson reported that GSM's appeal to Dori Wiggin will be denied.

**Railway Brook:** The commission reviewed the May 20 report prepared by Mark West based on his field inspection of the area earlier this month and review of the plans.

**Mosher Property:** It was suggested that Ms. Mosher be asked if she would have any interest in a 200' deep conservation easement adjacent to her Prime Wetlands in the rear.

**Invoices:** Cauvet moved, and Richardson seconded to pay the Callen Baldwin invoice. Lamson abstained. Everyone else voted in favor. Stern moved to pay the West Environmental invoice in the amount of \$526.80. Fletcher seconded. All in favor.

**Capital Improvements Program (CIP):** Cauvet moved to recommend the construction of a bicycle lane in the vicinity of the school, and trails in the Town Forest. Lamson seconded. All in favor.

**April 15 Minutes:** Cauvet moved to adopt. Lamson seconded. All in favor.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM

T. Morgan, Acting Sec'y