

**Warwick Conservation Commission Mtg.**

**6:30 PM August 12, 2024**

**Warwick Town Hall**

**Commissioners present:** Christine Duerring, Greg Brodsky, Jim Abels, Bob Paquette, and Nancy Putnam

Meeting called to order at 6:38 PM.

**Informal Discussion:** Matt Dorgan from the Warwick Highway Dept. and Sharon Mathews, Tree Warden, expressed concern about a 40 X 30 ft. slide of erosion in the Gulf, and sand has reached the brook, adjacent to Rt. 78. Discussion of options for correcting erosion on the steep slope and removing the sand from the brook. Commissioners requested that they explore the options further and come back with their preferred solution.

S. Mathews and Matt explained that they have received complaints about William Lyman, of Rt. 78, (Orange Road) Clearing extensive land adjacent to the road. The erosion from the clearing on the steep slope ends up in the road and in the swales, requiring road work by the Town to alleviate the safety hazard for vehicles.. Commissioners advised that they discuss this with the Board of Selectmen.

**7:03 PM Continuation of Public Hearing** for the Notice of Intent submitted by DCR for improvements to the drainage from the entrance road and parking areas at Erving State Forest that currenting have an outfall directly into Laurel Lake.

Catherine Lampiasi, from DCR Engineering, Applicant, and Jessica Marino, Representative wetland scientist from AE Com, present.

Commissioner Duerring: Requested that the proponents go over the proposed work and plans, page by page, to thoroughly explain the details of the proposed project.

J. Marino described the proposed work near the wetland resource areas that are shown on the plans submitted.

Commissioner Brodsky: Stream adjacent to parking lot appears to be perennial. Discussion of the stream characteristics and the proposed tree clearing extending down the slope to the stream bank.

J. Marino: insisted that it was intermittent and responded that DCR is not adding more impervious surfaces, so this issue would not change the project.

Commissioners: Expressed concern about the plans showing the swale above the road to be non-jurisdictional and the proposed extensive clearing of trees and shrubs on the slope above the swale, shown on the plans.

Commissioner Brodsky: Stated that he needs to see a reason why so much clearing is proposed above this small stream with wetland vegetation and why it is necessary to impact the natural resources on this slope.

Commissioner Duerring: Explained the previous RDA and reconstruction of stairs for trail project.

She asked for clarification of proposed work close to the trail and stairs.

Discussion of stream jurisdiction and how to avoid damaging the native vegetation and existing hydrology for this project.

Discussion of swale below, that needs to be added to the plans and that empties into the lake.

Commissioners expressed concerns about limits of clearing, jurisdictional issues, and the additional paving and grass in many areas, instead of restoration or avoidance of impacts to existing swales and Buffer Zones with native wetland vegetation. .

J. Marino: will arrange a site visit with us prior to the next meeting.

C. Duerring made a motion to continue this hearing to the next meeting in September.

Applicant and Representative agreed to the continuance of the NOI hearing until our September meeting.

Commissioner Paquette, 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted in favor.

**Meeting Minutes:** Reading of the Minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Brodsky made a motion to approve the Minutes from July, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commission Abels, all approved.

**Commissioner Appointments:** Duerring explained that Selectmen voted to approve the re-appointments of Chris D. and Greg Brodsky, for 3 yr. Terms.

**Forest Cutting Plans:** None received.

Astellra Wheeler Road update, electricity put in and preparation for well drilling. Explained by Commissioner Brodsky

CR Monitoring: Reminder for commissioners to conduct the monitoring.

Next Meeting Date: September 16th, 2024

An additional meeting was added for Sep. 10th to accommodate a heavy hearing schedule.

Motion to adjourn, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.