



Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 08, 2023

Town of Kingston
26 Evergreen Street, Room 200
Kingston, MA 02364

Present: Kalina Vendetti (Chairperson), Jim Franklin (Vice-Chair), Glen Duffy, Dorothy MacFarlane, Megan Hickey, Natalie Wiegman

Virtual:

Absent: Vittorio "Buz" Artiano

Staff: Matt Penella, Conservation Agent

Julianna Denum, Assistant Conservation Agent

Location: Town Hall Offices, Room 200

Commission Meeting Opened: 6:30 p.m.

BUSINESS:

I. Signing Documents

The Commission signed the Orders of Conditions for the Blackwater Memorial Forest Ecological Restoration Project, the Certificate of Compliance for 37 East Avenue, the Determination of Applicability for Delano Avenue access pathway improvements, and a bill from Roots Tree Consulting totaling \$2,900 for the bird habitat plan at Camp Nekon. They also signed a bill from Environmental Partners Group totaling \$6,516 for MS4 support for September 2023, a bill from Beals & Thomas totaling \$4,978.75 for the Sampsons Brook Headwaters Restoration Project, and a postage reimbursement for the Conservation Agent for a NOAA fish passage grant application. Additionally, Agent Penella signed a \$45.00 bill from We Print Today for laminate

signage for kiosks at conservation properties and a bill from Lowes totaling \$8.66 for the repair of the Mullikens Landing pier.

II. Action Items

a) 85 Brookdale Street Request for Determination of Applicability (DOA)

Chairperson Vendetti opened a public meeting to discuss the Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for the partial construction of a retaining wall, limited tree clearing, and the installation of a waterline from an existing well to a proposed single-family dwelling.

Rob Carlezon from Grady Consulting described the area as an existing wooded lot surrounded by cranberry bogs owned by the applicant and noted the proximity of Halls Brook to the north side of the property. He mentioned that the proposed single-family dwelling, along with its septic system, would be entirely located outside of the 100-foot wetland buffer zone and the 200-foot riverfront area. The only proposed work within a resource buffer zone would be the installation of a water line to an existing well on site and a portion of the retaining wall. Rob mentioned the intention to stabilize the backyard area, which slopes down to the cranberry bog, with grass and clarified that the driveway to the proposed dwelling would also be outside of the buffer zone.

Agent Penella stated that all the proposed work is outside the no-touch boundaries on site. He noted that a majority of the site has already been cleared of trees, a measure the applicant stated was part of an agricultural exemption to provide more sunlight to the cranberry bogs. The agent concluded by highlighting that the majority of the work being done on site falls outside of the commission's jurisdiction.

VOTE: Commissioner Franklin made motion to issue a Negative 3 DOA. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion PASSED with a vote 6-0-0.

III. Enforcement

No enforcement matters were discussed by the Commission.

IV: Meeting Minutes

Minutes for September 13, 2023, were submitted to the Commission for review and approval.

VOTE: Commissioner Franklin made a motion to approve the minutes for September 13, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Duffy. The motion PASSED with a vote 5-0-1.

V. Updates

a) Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Correira Bogs

Agent Penella stated that the Jones River Watershed Association (JRWA) submitted a CPC project assessment form as a placeholder to assist with funding for the purchase of the Correira bog property. He noted that a partnership between the Conservation Department and JRWA is likely to purchase and preserve the property, highlighting its status as a high-priority area for ecological restoration. The property features a series of cranberry bogs along the Jones River. The agent pointed out that the current property owner draws water from the Jones River, adversely affecting aquatic wildlife in the area, and that the banks of the Jones River also need to be more naturalized. Additionally, there is a brook on the property that has been piped underground and rerouted, which presents an opportunity for restoration. The agent stated that the cranberry bogs could be converted back into functional wetlands.

Agent Penella further noted that the property borders the Hathaway Preserve conservation property and currently provides the only access to it through a ten-foot easement on the Correira property. He mentioned that the current parking area at Hathaway is suboptimal and expressed a desire to relocate the parking area closer to the street. Acquiring the Correira property would facilitate this move and also provide instant access to trails on the bog roads, suitable for strollers, bikes, and pedestrians. He noted that the pump houses could be repurposed as observation blinds similar to those at Audubon properties. The agent also mentioned that the property includes two single-family homes and two outbuildings, which could serve a non-profit as a stewardship center and potential community gardens. Lastly, he noted that there is a placeholder on a federal grant that would provide the majority of funding for the project.

b) Grants

Agent Penella stated that the Conservation Department, in collaboration with the Jones River Watershed Association, applied for the NOAA Fish Passage Grant aimed at the Lake Street Culvert, Forge Pond fish ladder replacement, and the dredging of Forge Pond. He noted that applications for the same projects would also be submitted for a US Fish and Wildlife Fish Passage Grant to increase the likelihood of funding. Additionally, a grant application for the NOAA Restoration Habitat Grant is being prepared for the Maple Street culvert, Maple Street dam, and salt marsh restoration at Jones River Landing. A DFW Habitat Management Grant was also submitted for aquatic invasive plant treatment at Smelt Pond. Furthermore, the agent mentioned an upcoming grant application for the design and permitting of a boardwalk trail system starting at the senior center and extending to the Evergreen conservation parcels, featuring a scenic viewing area at Bates Pond. This application will also include a feasibility assessment for a pedestrian crossing over the MBTA tracks.

VI. Public Hearings

a) 3 Grandview Avenue Notice of Intent

Chairperson Vendetti reopened a hearing for the proposed construction of a second-floor addition to the existing house. Agent Penella noted that he has been waiting for an updated plan from the representative.

VOTE: Commissioner Franklin made a motion to continue the hearing until December 13th, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duffy. The motion PASSED with a vote 6-0-0.

CLOSING REMARKS

Vice-chair Jim Franklin made closing remarks at 7:01 p.m. The next meeting will be held on December 13th, 2023, starting at 6:30 p.m. in Room 200.

VOTE: Commissioner Franklin made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Wiegman; PASSED 6-0-0

Note on Voting Format: In the vote tallies mentioned in these minutes, the format used is "Yes-No-Abstain".

Prepared by: Julianna Denum, Assistant Conservation Agent, Kingston Conservation Department

Approved by: Kingston Conservation Commission

Documents used at the meeting:

- 11/08/2023 agenda
- 09/13/2023 meeting minutes
- RDA documents for 85 Brookdale Street



TOWN OF KINGSTON

NOTICE OF MEETING

BOARD:	Conservation Commission
DATE & TIME:	Wednesday, November 8, 2023 @ 6:30 PM
MEETING LOCATION:	Town House-26 Evergreen St. Room 200 & VIA ZOOM
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:	Matt Penella, Conservation Agent

This meeting notice is being posted on the Official Town House Bulletin Board, pursuant to General Law Chapter 30A, Section 20. Said notice and agenda must be filed in the Office of the Town Clerk at least **48 HOURS** prior to such meeting. Such filing and posting shall be the responsibility of the officer calling such meeting.

For those who want to watch this meeting, it is being broadcast by PACTV on Comcast 15 or Verizon 42 and streamed on YouTube at www.pactv.org/stream.

For anyone wishing to speak during the meeting, you are welcome to join us in person in room 200 or to join the Zoom call.

This meeting is being recorded by PACTV. Anyone intending to make an audio or video recording of this meeting should notify the Chair.

AGENDA

6:30 PM – CALL TO ORDER – ROOM 200

SIGNING DOCUMENTS:

1. Certificate of Compliance (COC) for 37 East Avenue
2. Order of Conditions (OOCs) for Blackwater Memorial Forest Ecological Restoration
3. Determination of Applicability (DOA) for Delano Avenue access pathway improvements
4. \$ 2,900 bill from Roots Tree Consulting for a bird habitat plan at Camp Nekon
5. \$6,516 bill from Environmental Partners Group for MS4 support for September 2023
6. \$4,978.75 bill from Beals & Thomas for Sampsons Brook Headwaters Restoration Project
7. \$45.00 bill from We Print Today for laminate signage for kiosks at conservation properties - signed by Conservation Agent

ACTION ITEMS:

1. 85 Brookdale Street Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for the partial construction of a retaining wall, limited tree clearing, and a waterline from an existing well to a proposed single-family dwelling

ENFORCEMENT:

MEETING MINUTES:

1. September 13, 2023

UPDATES:

1. Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Correia Bogs

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. 3 Grandview Avenue Notice Intent (NOI) for the construction of a second-floor addition to the existing house

ADJOURN:**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

1. December 13, 2023

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://pactv.zoom.us/j/96816332793?pwd=WmZRUWhTc0dsWUxrNGhSSjBNdDFldz09>

Meeting ID: 968 1633 2793

Passcode: 756156

Or, dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

This meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held in-person at the location provided on this notice. Members of the public are welcome to attend this in-person meeting or remotely. All Town Board and Commission meetings are required to provide remote participation. If there is a technical problem and remote participation cannot be provided, the meeting will end and be rescheduled.

The Town of Kingston advises its employees and the public that it does not discriminate based on a person's disability in employment or in access to its programs, services, and activities. This meeting location is accessible to people with disabilities. The Town of Kingston has designated Paul Armstrong to coordinate efforts to comply with the requirements of Executive Order 526, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the federal Rehabilitation Act and various other federal and state laws protecting the rights of people with disabilities.

If you have a disability and require a reasonable accommodation to fully participate in this event, please contact the ADA Coordinator no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the event by phone at 781-585-0505 or email parmstrong@kingstonma.gov to discuss your accessibility needs. Requests for accommodations or modifications made within the forty-eight (48) hour window will be honored to the maximum extent feasible, but it may not be possible to fulfill them.



KINGSTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION



26 Evergreen Street, Kingston, MA 02364

SIGN-IN SHEET

PLEASE NOTE THIS MEETING IS BEING VIDEO & AUDIO RECORDED

DATE: 11/08/2023

NAME	INTEREST	ADDRESS
Gavin Arrowsmith	85 brookdale	5 winter st
Robert Arrowsmith	85 brookdale	5 Winter st.



KINGSTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

26 Evergreen Street, Kingston, MA 02364



PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The Kingston Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, November 8th, 2023, at 6:30 PM in Action Items, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L Chapter 131, section 40, as amended, and the Town of Kingston Wetlands Protection By-Laws, Chapter 13. This meeting is regarding the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Gavin Arrowsmith for the property located at 85 Brookdale Street. The proposed work includes the partial construction of a retaining wall, limited tree clearing, and the installation of a waterline from an existing well. The proposed work will occur within the 100-foot buffer zone to a wetland cranberry bog. This meeting will be held in person in Room 200 of the Kingston Town House. The public will also be able to attend the meeting virtually through Zoom.

Please visit the link below to join the webinar:

<https://pactv.zoom.us/j/96816332793?pwd=WmZRUWhTc0dsWUxrNGhSSjBNdDFldz09>

Meeting ID: 968 1633 2793

Passcode: 756156

Or dial-in by telephone:

US: +1 929 205 6099

This notice is also available at masspublicnotices.org

Conservation Agent: Matt Penella