

**Leicester Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
November 8, 2023**

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
LEICESTER, MASS

**Location:** Leicester Town Hall, Select Board Meeting Room

**Member Present:** Stephan Parretti, JoAnn Schold, James Cooper, Vanessa Lopez

**Members Absent:** Ashlyn Coyle

**Others Present:** Kristen Jacobsen, Town Planner, Lisa Westwell, Administrative Assistant

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**Call to Order:** Chairman Parretti called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

**1. Public Hearing: 20-22 Lake Drive – Request to Amend Order of Conditions (DEP File #197-0691)**

Mr. Marek Kopec explained that the slope of the property towards the lake is the reason they want to add two retaining walls so the walls can prevent runoff to the water. Mr. Parretti asked who is doing the work. Mr. Kopec said they had one quote, but would request additional quotes if the request to amend was approved. Mr. Parretti asked if the walls were any closer to the water and Mr. Kopec stated they were not. Mr. Parretti asked if there were any questions/comments from the public and there were none.

**Motion:** Ms. Schold made a motion to grant the change to the Order of Conditions for 20-22 Lake Drive with conditions that site inspection would be done when silt fence was installed and that the applicant would be required to submit as as-built once the project was complete.

**Second:** Mr. Cooper

**Discussion:** None

**Record of Vote:**

Stephan Parretti	Aye
James Cooper	Aye
JoAnn Schold	Aye
Vanessa Lopez	Aye
Ashlyn Coyle	Absent
<b>Four (4) in Favor. None (0) Opposed. One (1) Absent.</b>	
<b>Approved 4 to 0</b>	

**2. 0, 90, 92 Huntoon Memorial Highway - Request for Certificate of Compliance (DEP File #197-0683)**

Mr. John Brennan and Mr. Richard Whitehouse, VHB's engineer, were present. Mr. Brennan stated that all work was done outside the buffer. The Commission reviewed the letter from VHB and the as-built plan. Mr. Parretti asked Mr. Whitehouse if he had conducted a site visit and found the project to be in conformance with the Order of Conditions and Mr. Whitehouse stated yes.

**Motion:** Ms. Schold made a motion to issue the Certificate of Compliance for 0, 90, 92 Huntoon Memorial Highway.

**Second:** Ms. Lopez

**Discussion:** None

**Record of Vote:**

Stephan Parretti	Aye
James Cooper	Aye
JoAnn Schold	Aye
Vanessa Lopez	Aye
Ashlyn Coyle	Absent
<b>Four (4) in Favor. None (0) Opposed. One (1) Absent.</b>	
<b>Approved 4 to 0</b>	

**Discussion**

- **Blueberry Lane (Lots 6-9) – Application for Forest Cutting**

Mr. Antanavica was present. Mr. Parretti said the application was an after the fact application for work that was already done in violation of the Forest Cutting Bylaw and the Commission was issuing a \$144 fine per the Bylaw.

**Motion:** Ms. Schold made a motion to issue a \$144 fine per the Forest Cutting Bylaw.

**Second:** Ms. Lopez

**Discussion:** None

**Record of Vote:**

Stephan Parretti	Aye
James Cooper	Aye
JoAnn Schold	Aye
Vanessa Lopez	Aye
Ashlyn Coyle	Absent
<b>Four (4) in Favor. None (0) Opposed. One (1) Absent.</b>	
<b>Approved 4 to 0</b>	

- **120 White Birch St. – Bond Request Amount**

Mr. Parretti read the letter from McClure with the estimated restoration cost per EcoTec, Inc.

**Motion:** Ms. Schold made a motion to set the Bond amount at \$2,500 for the wetland replication.

**Second:** Mr. Cooper

**Discussion:** None

**Record of Vote:**

Stephan Parretti	Aye
James Cooper	Aye
JoAnn Schold	Aye
Vanessa Lopez	Aye
Ashlyn Coyle	Absent
<b>Four (4) in Favor. None (0) Opposed. One (1) Absent.</b>	
<b>Approved 4 to 0</b>	

- **Stiles Reservoir Drawdown Discussion – Jay Lussier**

Mr. Lussier said that Stiles Reservoir has a drawdown permit and conducts a 6' drawdown each November 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Lussier spoke with Judith Schmitz at MassDEP and she told him the regulations had changed regarding drawdowns over 3'. He explained the issues with only a 3' drawdown including the inability to maintain spillway and repair beach areas. He said Stiles is having the lake surveyed at 3' and 6' and is also in discussion with Spencer. Jan Parke spoke and said the Town owns Greenville and Waite Dams and she will help put together a list of lake association contacts for Mr. Lussier. Mr. Lussier said he will keep the Commission informed.

- **51 Lakeview Drive**

Owner Nancy Begin is looking for guidance on removing 7 trees and part of an 8<sup>th</sup> tree on Cedar Meadow Lake. A site visit was scheduled for Friday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>.

- **142 Charles Street**

Mr. Rene Dube of 15 Beach Street asked the Commission about removing 4 trees and doing canopy work at 142 Charles St. A site visit was scheduled for Friday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>.

- **Use of NOI Funds**

JoAnn said she got an email from Mia McDonald, Leicester's DEP Circuit Rider, and the NOI and ANRAD funds can only be used for Conservation administration and enforcement.

- **Municipal Waterways Fund**

Ms. Westwell explained MGL Chapter 60B (i) boat excise tax funds to be deposited into a municipal waterways fund established under the provisions of Chapter 40 Section 5G. The sums

received may be appropriated for specific waterways improvements and maintenance as outlined in Chapter 40, Section 5G. Ms. Jacobsen added that this would have to be voted on at a Town Meeting. The Commission asked Ms. Westwell to gather more information on how much the Town takes in for boat excise and what types of projects other towns have used these monies to fund.

- **MACC Dues for 2024**

Annual renewal for Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions: \$452. The Commission asked Ms. Jacobsen to renew the membership.

- **214 Rawson St.**

Sam Harvey with Integrity called the office to inform the Commission that they were ready to begin the restoration work and asked if they wanted to do an inspection. The Commission asked Ms. Westwell to contact Mr. Harvey and ask him to have the wetland areas re-flagged and then call for an inspection.

- **Approval of Minutes – 9/13/23 and 10/11/23**

**Motion: Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the 9/13/23 and 10/11/23 minutes.**

**Second:** Ms. Lopezr

**Discussion:** None

**Record of Vote:**

Stephan Parretti	Aye
James Cooper	Aye
JoAnn Schold	Aye
Vanessa Lopez	Aye
Ashlyn Coyle	Absent
<b>Four (4) in Favor. None (0) Opposed. One (1) Absent.</b>	
<b>Approved 4 to 0</b>	

- **82 Baldwin St.**

Ms. Schold asked Ms. Westwell to reach out to the owner of 82 Baldwin Street and find out if Mr. Krevosky is working with them.

**Motion: Mr. Cooper made a motion to adjourn.**

**Second:** Ms. Lopezr

**Discussion:** None

**Record of Vote:**


Stephan Parretti	Aye
James Cooper	Aye
JoAnn Schold	Aye
Vanessa Lopez	Aye
Ashlyn Coyle	Absent
<b>Four (4) in Favor. None (0) Opposed. One (1) Absent.</b>	
<b>Approved 4 to 0</b>	

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Lisa Westwell, Administrative Assistant  
to the Planning Department

**Date Approved:** 12/13/23

**Conservation Commission Board Signatures**

  
Stephan Parretti, Chair

  
Vanessa Lopez, Member

  
James Cooper, Vice Chair

  
Ashlyn Coyle, Member

  
JoAnn Schold, Member