

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025
RESOURCE ROOM

Attendance: Vice chair Jim Foran, Mike Greco, Josiah Burch, Kate Thompson, Matt Benoit Community Development Director

Absent: Chair Mark Mungeam, Brendan Doyle – both excused

1. (1:00 TS) Meeting Minutes: March 4, 2024, March 18, 2024, December 2, 2024 & December 16, 2024 – Possible votes
(2:40 TS) Motion to approve the March 4, 2024, meeting minutes as amended, made by Mike Greco, 2nd by Kate Thompson. Roll call vote – Kate Thompson, Mike Greco, Josiah Burch, Jim Foran all in favor.
(3:55 TS) Motion to approve the March 18, 2024, meeting minutes as amended, made by Josiah Burch, 2nd by Kate Thompson. Roll call vote – Kate Thompson, Mike Greco, Josiah Burch, Jim Foran all in favor.
(5:40 TS) Motion to approve the December 2, 2024, meeting minutes as amended, made by Kate Thompson, 2nd by Mike Greco. Roll call vote – Kate Thompson, Mike Greco, Josiah Burch, Jim Foran all in favor.
(6:30 TS) Motion to approve the December 16, 2024, meeting minutes as written, made by Kate Thompson, 2nd by Mike Greco. Roll call vote – Kate Thompson, Mike Greco, Josiah Burch, Jim Foran all in favor.
2. (7:00 TS) 2024 Draft Annual Report – Possible votes
Matt Benoit updated the report as requested including the map with the parcel information.
(8:55 TS) Motion to approve the 2024 Annual Report made by Kate Thompson, 2nd by Mike Greco. Roll call vote – Kate Thompson, Mike Greco, Josiah Burch, Jim Foran all in favor.
3. (9:35 TS) 6:30 PM (RDA) Public Meeting: Request for Determination of Applicability, 55 Island Rd, Map 175 Lot 15 (Tree Removal) – Possible votes
(9:55 TS) Motion to waive the reading of the public notice made by Kate Thompson, 2nd by Josiah Burch. Roll call vote – Kate Thompson, Mike Greco, Josiah Burch, Jim Foran all in favor.
Carol Gogolinski, 55 Island Rd called an arborist that stated the trees that are leaning towards her house should be taken and she is here to request the removal of 12 trees. Matt Benoit visited the property last week and showed photos of the trees being proposed for removal.
(14:30 TS) Jim Foran called the hearing closed.
(14:50 TS) Motion to approve the tree cutting at 55 Island Road per the plans presented with the condition to not remove the stumps, made by Josiah Burch, 2nd by Mike Greco. Roll call vote – Kate Thompson, Mike Greco, Josiah Burch, Jim Foran all in favor.
4. (16:20 TS) Enforcement Order for 56 Lakeshore Drive and Lakeshore Drive Enforcement Order
Matt Benoit has attempted several times to get updates from DEP with no successful response from them.
5. (16:50 TS) Request for Certificate of Compliance, (DEP #143-1067), Kathy Sugrue-Richards, 36 Marilyn Dr, Map 242 Lot 3 – Possible votes
They have an as built for the barn and the gravel drive to get to it and Matt Benoit showed photos of the property.
(20:15 TS) Motion to accept the certificate of compliance for 36 Marilyn Drive, made by Josiah Burch, 2nd by Mike Greco. Roll call vote – Kate Thompson, Mike Greco, Josiah Burch, Jim Foran all in favor.

6. (21:45 TS) Request for Certificate of Compliance, (DEP # 143-573), Adam Furno, 53 Southeast Main St, Map 214 Lot 33 – Possible votes
Adam Furno was not able to attend the meeting and Matt Benoit stated that this is an old order of conditions for the construction of his home and he does have the as built plan for the septic design approved by the Board of Health in 2004. Matt Benoit showed photos of the property and recommended a full certificate of compliance.
(24:05 TS) Motion for a full certificate of compliance for 53 Southeast Main Street, made by Kate Thompson, 2nd by Mike Greco. Roll call vote – Kate Thompson, Mike Greco, Josiah Burch, Jim Foran all in favor.
7. (25:00 TS) Grant Opportunities for Town of Douglas Conservation Commission – Possible votes
Kate Thompson talked about some grant opportunities, and they discussed the various grants the town can apply for, specifically the MassTrails Grant. The time to apply for the MassTrails Grant was today so they will seek to apply for FY26.
8. (37:10 TS) MACC Annual Environmental Conference @ Holy Cross – Possible votes
Matt Benoit stated that there is enough money in the budget for 3 commissioners to attend this conference and need to register by February 26 and the event is March 1 from 8 – 4:30. Josiah Burch stated that he will attend, and Matt Benoit will ask Brandon Faneuf and Mark Mungeam if they would like to attend the conference.
9. (42:05 TS) Mail – Notice of Intent to Convert Chapter Land – 76 Oak Street
This is just an FYI for the Committee; Nick Staruk at Lake Manchaug Camping is delivering an ANR to the Commission to divide off a portion of the large parcel. There is no action for the town to take because it is being conveyed to a family member.
10. (43:05 TS) Stormwater Bylaw – Possible votes
The Stakeholder Committee has produced this draft, and the governing authority has now changed from the Conservation Commission to the Planning Board per the committee that drafted the bylaw. Matt Benoit went through the bylaw, and they discussed what aspects would be in the Conservation's jurisdiction. The Commission members decided to table this vote for March 3 when Mark Mungeam is present.

(1:06:15 TS) Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Josiah Burch, 2nd by Mike Greco. Roll call vote – Kate Thompson, Mike Greco, Josiah Burch, Jim Foran all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephenie Gosselin