







Newbury Conservation Commission - Public Meeting Minutes
June 28, 2022

Members Present:

-  Brian Colleran (Chair)
-  Benjamin Gahagan (Co-Chair)
-  Peter Paicos (Planning Board Liaison)
-  Mary Rimmer
-  Dan Streeter
-  Samantha Holt (Agent)

7:08 p.m. Meeting Called to Order

- Opening remarks from Conservation Agent Samantha Holt

PUBLIC MEETING

Samantha Holt introduced three newly appointed members of the Commission. Bob Connors (not present), TJ Conte, and Dianne O'Brien were appointed on June 14, 2022 and will officially begin their terms as active and voting members starting on July 1, 2022. Each new member who was present provided a brief introduction of themselves and their backgrounds. The existing members also briefly introduced themselves and their backgrounds.

- Exhibits: Proposed amended Town of Newbury Wetlands By-Law Chapter 95, 6/28/2022 By-Law Workshop Live Notes Document

Ben Gahagan provided a brief outline of the history of the bylaw amendment process. Active members of the Commission outlined their motivations to implement a new bylaw. New members had an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments, active members addressed all questions asked. Ms. Holt provided an update on the new bylaw draft that was published. This draft was designed to show an inland wetlands bylaw as an entirely separate bylaw chapter from the Plum Island bylaw, and the intent of the complete separation is to limit confusion and overlap between the two bylaws. Ms. Holt noted, however, that following a recent discussion with Town Counsel she was advised instead to still do an amendment to the existing bylaw, but to draft it as a two-part chapter – with "Part A" being the Plum Island bylaw and "Part B" being all other areas. Brian Colleran outlined the reasons for not wanting to make any changes to the bylaw as it applies to Plum Island. Mr. Gahagan noted that any member of the public with any questions, comments, or concerns should reach out directly to Ms. Holt and provide them in writing.

The Commission also discussed the Open Meeting Law regulations and requirements with new members, and Ms. Holt provided an update on in-person versus virtual meeting allowances. As of the time of this meeting, the order allowing for virtual meetings is set to expire on July 15, 2022, and Commission meetings will return to being in-person beginning on July 19, 2022 unless that order is extended again. Updates will be posted on the Conservation Commission webpage on the Town's website.

There were no members of the public present, no public comments were received.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Holt, Conservation Agent