

Newbury Conservation Commission - Public Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2022

Members Present:

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

7:07 p.m. Meeting Called to Order

- Opening remarks from Commission Chair Brian Colleran

PUBLIC MEETING

- Exhibits: Proposed amended Town of Newbury Wetlands By-Law Chapter 95, Newbury Wetland Bylaw Questionnaire

Brian Colleran opened discussion of a questionnaire that was written by Mary Rimmer. The questionnaire was distributed to all members of the Commission and returned to Samantha Holt. Ms. Rimmer outlined the questions in the document and each member had an opportunity to share their answers.

Questions covered topics such as:

- Whether members felt the Town needed to create a bylaw incorporating wetland resources not on Plum Island and how important they believed the work was;
- Willingness to publicly promote the bylaw amendment;
- Whether they thought the bylaw should be amended or if a new standalone document should be created;
- What enhancements the bylaw should provide;
- What (if any) exceptions should be provided for minimum setback requirement regulations;
- Appropriate mitigation measures and activities;
- Additional setbacks for specific types of sensitive resources;
- Whether the bylaw should give the Commission jurisdiction over isolated wetlands and the minimum size areas that should be protected;
- Whether isolated wetlands should have associated buffer zones and setbacks; and,
- Whether the 100-year floodplain should be considered a resource area and if it should have setback requirements.

The Commission also discussed the possibility of hiring a consultant to assist with the process of developing the new bylaw and associated regulations, and requested to have Ms. Holt look into funding options, such as grants, to make it possible. Ms. Holt reminded the Commission and the public that there is a third bylaw workshop currently scheduled for June 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Holt, Conservation Agent