

Plympton Conservation Commission
Minutes of Open Virtual Meeting – December 22,
2020

Held over Zoom Conference Call: zoom.us/j/8802901353

By Telephone: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 880 290 1353

Password: 948488

Present: Board Members, Rick Burnet, Amy Cronin, Linda Leddy and Mike Matern; and Conservation Agent, Brian Vasa

Guest: Nathaniel Stevens of McGregor and Legere P.C.

1. Call to Order. Mr. Burnet called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm and read the suggested statement to be made by the Chair of a public body at the start of any public meeting conducted “virtually”, prepared by KP Law:

“Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Plympton Conservation Commission is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order.”

2. Discussion of Notice of Intent (NOI) Hearing continuation on 0 Maple Street - house construction. It was noted that Commissioner Mike Matern recused himself from discussion.

The Commissioners discussed their observations and concerns regarding several aspects of the proposal. One of the major concerns related to the incredibly small and oddly shaped construction envelope where the house, garage and septic will be located. There was concern about possible future encroachment on the inner buffer zones and BVW. The same concerns were cited for the long driveway and the vernal pool. The driveway will go through two inner buffer zones. To make sure everyone was looking at the same elements of the Plan, the Commission referred to a version that had been color-coded and showed each bylaw resource area in a different color..

There was also discussion about requirements to grant waivers, including the replication proposal and the demonstration of a “public benefit”. The Commissioners are not convinced that the requirements to qualify for a waiver based on the project’s impact and the provision of a public benefit have been met. The project has many activities in or near the inner buffer zone, Plympton’s water table is very sensitive; there are no back-up resources for water in a town that is exclusively supplied by private wells for each residence. When wetlands are replicated, there’s no guarantee they will be as good as the original; additionally, the turtles have been nesting in the area for decades, so there’s really

a limited benefit of having a man-made turtle nesting area that will require ongoing maintenance by the Town.

It was noted that the Commission strives to be fair to all, and work with each applicant to fully consider their proposal. The Board of Health has notified the Commission that between 2006 and 2013, 25 perc tests have been performed on this parcel, and that 24 failed. This information is not part of the Commission's responsibility.

The Commission will seek to get advice from Town Counsel before voting on January 5, 2021.

3. Warrants. None.

4. Building Permits. None

5. Parking Lot issues. An inventory of the vernal pools in town will be created.

6. Next Meetings. The next scheduled meeting will be held on January 5th and January 19th at 6:30 pm. The typical meetings schedule (1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month) is subject to be modified, and will be posted.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm by a motion from Ms. Cronin and seconded by Ms. Leddy with unanimous approval.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Amy Cronin