

Barrington Conservation Commission

Minutes for Tuesday, January 8, 2012, Meeting

School Committee Room, Barrington Town Hall

**In attendance:** Cyndee Fuller, Ed Ionata, Doug Materne, David Boyes, Lisa Merck. Cyndee called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Cyndee noted that the agenda for the meeting had been amended and posted to include a discussion of methods to evaluate the effectiveness of the Reusable Bag Initiative, as directed by the Town Council.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the December 11, 2012, meeting were approved. (Cyndee made the motion to approve, Lisa seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously)

**Zoning Board/New Applications:**

**Application # 3699**, Mark A. Pelson, 294 Rumstick Road, Barrington, RI 02806, owner, Richard A. and Lisa M. Browning, 359 Rumstick Road, Barrington, RI 02806 owners, for permission to remove the building containing existing accessory living quarters, relocate existing house and construct a new single-family home; Assessor's Plat 11, Lot5, R-40 District, 359 Rumstick Road, Barrington, RI 02806, requiring relief for expansion and change of nonconforming use (two dwelling units will remain on one lot), and dimensional relief for being within 100' of a wetlands/waterbody and for height of an accessory structure.

Bruce Cox, Attorney; Richard Lipsitz, Professional Land Surveyor; and Gregory Snider, Architect were present along with the owner to explain the proposed project. Discussion focused upon the potential to move the new proposed home further from the wetland. The project team explained that the new home would occupy the footprint of the original home, which is to be moved elsewhere on the lot and more distant from the wetland. Utilizing the existing footprint of the original home will minimize disruption to existing plantings, driveways and hardscape on the lot.

David Boyes made a motion to approve the application with conditions that proper erosion control measures will be utilized during construction, that construction materials will be stored on the Rumstick Road side of the site away from the wetland, and that roof water will be piped to drywells in compliance with Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Stormwater Guidance. Ed seconded the motion. The motion passed with David, Ed, Doug and Lisa voting to approve and Cyndee voting to deny.

**Application #3702**, Roberta Portugal, 17 Baron Road, Barrington, RI 02806, applicant and owner for permission to construct a 30'x34' second floor addition; Assessor's Plat 29, Lot 164, R-10 District, 17 Baron Road, Barrington, RI 02806, requiring dimensional relief for being within 100' of a wetlands/waterbody.

Roberta Portugal and Jim Thompson, Thompson Properties (contractor) explained that the entire proposed project would take place within the footprint of the existing structure. Ed made a motion to approve the application with the condition that construction materials would be properly stored. Doug Materne seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Continuation of the Appeal** of James and Lynn DePasquale, 30 Dante Street, Barrington, RI 02806 from a Decision of the Planning Board, with regard to Assessor's Plat 30, Lot 203, Columbus Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806, denying the extension of Columbus Avenue. At an earlier meeting, Conservation Commission commented to the Planning Board strongly recommending denying the request. The Conservation Commission will track the appeal.

**Review Last Month's Application:** None

### **Town Council Update:**

June Speakmann reported that an update from the Rhode Island Department of Transportation has been requested by the Council regarding the progress of design, and the anticipated schedule for construction, for the Central Bridge. She also reported that the Council will discuss a potential reorganization of the Bristol County Water Authority, that new police cruisers are being purchased, and that David Boyes has been reappointed to the Conservation Commission for a 3 year term. June also noted that a meeting has been scheduled with the School Committee and the Appropriations Committee to discuss plans for the replacement or renovation of the Middle School. She also explained that the Town Council has charged the Conservation Commission with determining the impact of enacted Reusable Bag Initiative.

The Commission had an initial discussion of potential methods for evaluating the impact of the Bag Initiative including:

- Polling retail stores for pre- and post-initiative bag use number
- Surveying citizens on acceptability of the initiative
- Examining results of similar initiatives in other localities

The discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

**Zoning/Planning Topics:**

Plans have been updated for the Bluemead Subdivision. It was reported that the wetland setback issues noted in earlier review have been addressed.

Final comments on integration of DEM wetlands provisions with Town Ordinance are due to Ed.

**Conservation Commission Brainstorming:**

Discussion continued on tree stewardship and the need to monitor the updating of the town-wide stormwater management plan being prepared by the DPW.

Brainstorming (what we want to do in 2013):

Doug: We need to be more on top of housing developments; we shouldn't be tied just to wetlands. Also open space because large parcels are being gobbled up.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Ionata, Acting Secretary