

Barrington Conservation Commission
Minutes for Tuesday, June 11, 2013, Meeting
Council Chambers, Barrington Town Hall

In attendance: Cyndee Fuller, Doug Materne, Joseph Roberts, Leslie Weeden

Cyndee called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes:

We were not able to vote on the May, 2013, minutes because a quorum from that meeting was not present.

Zoning Board/New Applications

Continuation of application #3715, Joseph Francis, 175 Poppasquash Road, Bristol, RI 02809. This application was not addressed at last month's Zoning meeting. It was continued to the June meeting.

Application # 3719, Edwin and Deborah Barton, 298 Rumstick Road, Barrington, RI 02806, applicants and owners, for permission to add a 24' by 16' deck on the rear of a new house under construction; Assessor's Plat 5, Lot 90, R-40 District, 14 Echo Drive, Barrington, RI 02806, requiring relief for being within 100 feet of a wetlands/waterbody.

The Bartons explained that the house was built inside the 100-foot setback, but the deck would now encroach on it. The house that was torn down, however, encroached farther into the setback. The deck is to be 24 feet wide and 16 deep, made of a composite material and set on sono tubes. The site for the deck is fairly flat; the property then slopes steeply to Echo Lake.

Joseph moved to approve the application with the following conditions:

- *remove soil to front of house (do not stockpile soil on pond side of property)
- *leave silt fence in place
- *leave permeable material under deck

Doug seconded. All in favor.

Application #3720. William Fleming, 9 Baron Road, Barrington, RI 02806, applicant and owner, for permission to add a covered porch with roof in the rear of the house; Assessor's Plat 29, Lot 166, R-10 District, 9 Baron Road, Barrington, RI 02806, requiring relief for being within 100 feet of a wetlands/waterbody. Note: We

previously reviewed Application #3689 in September, 2012, which was ultimately withdrawn.

William Fleming was not present. The application (#3720) was reconfigured a bit from the previous application (#3689). The distance from the proposed porch to the side setbacks and to the seawall were slightly changed (now a foot farther from setback on each side and center point four feet closer to setback). We're not sure why. Cyndee made a motion to approve the application with the following conditions:

- *erosion control

- *soil not stockpiled

- *permeable material underneath

The vote was 2/2 (Cyndee and Joseph voted yes; Leslie and Doug voted no). The vote on the previous application was 3 for, 2 against.

Town Council Update:

St. Andrews zone change. Zoning is currently R-25 and the school needs to rezone to R&E (Recreation and Education) in order to build some tennis courts. There were an unexpected number of opponents to the plan at the Town Council meeting. This was the first time that neighbors had had the opportunity to speak. Neighbors raised questions about wetlands, drainage, etc. The Council decided that more time was needed to digest the proposal and comments. The proposal has been continued to the July 1 meeting, but voting may not happen until a special July 15 meeting.

Joseph presented a proposal to the Town Council to do an analysis of the effectiveness of the Reusable Bag Initiative (more on this below).

Commissioner Tasks

Ed: Zoning code update for wetland definition (did not discuss; Ed not present)

Joseph: Reusable Bag Initiative Summary of Town Council Presentation: Ann Strong, who was present at the Conservation Commission meeting, said that she had talked to people in Barrington stores (i.e. the assistant manager at Shaws and others) who said that they were using the same amount of bags, but now using paper bags, which are more expensive than plastic. This is all anecdotal. Joseph pointed out that the Town Council only approved half of his proposal; the Council did not approve the 5-cent fee for paper bags. June commented that the point of the initiative was to reduce plastic in Narragansett Bay and that it has done that. Discussion ensued about whether the initiative has reduced the amount of plastic in conservation areas

(is it possible to get anecdotal information on that, from Woods Hole or Save the Bay?), whether more people are using reusable bags, whether reusable bags tend to be over-filled, whether the town should design special reusable bags with Barrington logo, etc. Joseph plans to compile survey data by the end of October.

Leslie: Speaker's Series. Have designated four Monday nights starting in mid-September. Working on getting films and/or speakers set up.

Doug: Police Cove, Rayner Wildlife Refuge/Nockum Hill: New name is Barrington River Park at Police Cove. 97 artists applied for public art project. Committee will go back to 10 or 12 artists for specific ideas.

Cyndee: Vitullo/Barrington Community Garden: Town has put in a well. Barn on property needs to be taken down within 180 days. Discussion about whether testing has been done on barn to see if there are hazardous chemicals. The Vitullos said they would take barn down, but town needs to make sure it is being done correctly. June said that it's an administrative matter that Peter deAngelis needs to deal with. Barn must be removed before people can garden there. The Vitullos have use of the land until the fall. Right now there is a small committee working on Community Garden, but once it is approved by the Town Council, the committee will be opened up to a much larger group. Should know more by September.

David: Phase II/MS4 (did not discuss; David not present)

Lisa: Town landfills (did not discuss; Lisa not present)

Miscellaneous

RIACC, Handbook, file distributed FYI. They keep track of legislation passed and distribute the information, which is good. Discussion about changing regulations to make them statewide. The bill is going into committee. Town should have someone on committee.

Database of town properties for which we wish to see zoning. Phil Hervey has been contacted about GIS ability to generate list.

Stella Road. We'll discuss at next meeting.

Harbor Commission: Ann Strong, liaison from Town Council to Harbor Commission, asked if we could work with them regarding docks. Cyndee will make contact with Brian Hunt, head of Harbor Commission.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Weeden, Secretary

