

Town of Chester: Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes for September 30th, 2024

Meeting Started: 1705

Meeting Adjourned: 1745

In attendance: Lora Wade, Mark Stein-our WM DeP Circuit Rider, Paul Waite, V. Maffuccio with Representative, John Burns, no stakeholders/public in attendance.

Item 2(1) and (2)- no further information has been provided to the Commission for f/u from MA DCR, no further information for f/u noted/provided from BoH, Planning Board, etc. ConCom will continue to be available/open if/when necessary/requested/warranted.

Item 2(3)- 115 Lyons Hill Road, semi-informal site visit completed. There is a regulated intermittent stream on a portion of the parcel. The property/landowner, N. Chiusano, has been notified and will f/u with the Commission should he want to proceed with any developments that may/may not potentially impact the wetland/resource area(s).

Item 2(4)- 66 Crane Avenue- Building Inspector was consulted via email dated 09/2024 and was provided with three attached documents for inspection (available upon FOIA request). Both departments agreed to communicate with one another should property owner decide to further expand/build within a wetland/resource area(s). ConCom has since been in contact via phone call on Feb/2025 with Salvini Associates Inc. in Chester, MA who is representing the Property Owner for a stated "single-family home build on the property next to the garage". Salvini Associates Inc was instructed to provide the Commission with emailed PDF copies of the completed wetland delineation(s), site/construction reports/blueprints/schematics, when available. Salvini was also instructed that RDAs and NOIs are to be filled out via the MA DeP e-permitting website with all applicable fees to be paid. Salvini verbally acknowledged this information and will f/u at a later date/time.

Item 2(5)- 325 Middlefield Rd. DeP ID#1767311. Submitted by Maffuccio/Burns for already in-place elementary school trail project located on town deeded property.

Motion made by: L. Wade, Seconded by: P. Waite, to issue Negative 2 Determination with Special Conditions carried unanimously 2-0-0.

Item 2(6)- MVP 2021+ in continuation. No new updates and information available at this time.

Item 2(7)- HMP- still awaiting State/MEMA approval. No new updates and information available at this time.

Item 2(8)- Shared ConCom services. No new updates or information available at this time. No new news/updates to provide for a NFC representative at this time.

Item 2(9) and (10)- Mapping is ongoing but not being undertaken by ConCom for any projects/activities in Town at this time. A large, tacked Town of Chester Map visually noted in Town Hall, second floor. No information provided from Town Boards/Committees to ConCom as to the activity(ies)/purpose of this map being undertaken. No news/updates from ConCom to Assessors from email dated in 2023 requesting information for "...., Town Owned Property/Land, Certified Fire Ponds". Mapping is currently utilized for ConCom which is provided via online from MACC to

ConCom members as well as free MA GIS services and assistance, as well as other programs/services. ConCom will be continually monitoring and updating with any new information as it comes available upon request.

-Vernal Pool Plunge Reunion on Feb 26th at 1830. LW participated via zoom. Shared resources with PW. Floodplain Mgt/Admin designated to the Building Inspector per HMP in July/August 2024. Continual.

Item 2(11)- Notification to abutters are to be followed per MA DeP regulations, MA MGL 131 s 40, et al. ConCom will discuss if notification to abutters when permitting RDAs, not just NOIs, should also be enacted to ensure transparent communication to home and landowners. Continual.

Item 2 (12)- Treasury Report- Continual.

Item 2(13)- Staff Reports- ConCom currently has acting Chair, L.Wade and is currently in progress of making structured outlines of/for the department. Without a third voting member, it can be difficult. At this time, LW is to remain acting Chair, PW acting Vice Chair. Further discussion continued until a third member is voted/appointed in ConCom and further evaluation can be made by three acting voting ConCom members.

Motion made by L.Wade to remain acting Chair AND P. Waite to be acting Vice Chair. Seconded by P. Waite. Unanimous vote 2-0-0.

Item 3 (1) and (2)- LW to meet with BoH member on 3/4/2025 at 1645 to view space in BoH office at the Town Hall to be utilized in conjunction, BoH reported there are older documents for ConCom located in their office. LW is tasked to locate, obtain, and organize ConCom documents in Town Hall with coordinating Boards/Committees. BoH Office is normally locked when not in use, locked door key information to come from Town Administrator per BoH. Per LW- ConCom has been only filing documents to folders/binders located in the TA's office where she was shown to by previous chair, John V., it is unknown if any previous documents were/are located elsewhere throughout the Town Hall. Continued. At this time, there are no scheduled dates or times for ConCom to have "open door" designated dates/hours at the Town Hall. Continued. All ConCom meetings are currently on an as needed basis with contact either through email or phone. Contact information is listed on the Town webpage under Conservation Commission. ConCom has no grant applications at this time. Updates from the DER/DCR culvert grants unknown to ConCom at this time.

Septics/wells are sent to ConCom via BoH via email at this time. ConCom does not get initially notified when an individual/company/contractor places an application to do so. Other boards/committees use Permit Eyes for their applications. ConCom does not have access to this. Per BoH, TA has been previously inquired regarding access for ConCom in 2024. Enabling access can potentially speed up the permitting processes, decrease loss of intercollaborative communications, and ensure all proper and regulatory documentation is not missed/lost/forgotten. There have been no further communications regarding this-Continued.

Item 4(1), (2), (3)- No new information at this time from ConCom or from other Boards/Committees. Continued.

Item 5- stated in minutes.

Approved Agenda/Meeting Minutes for the Town of Chester Conservation Commission on
(date/time) 3/6/2005 1633.

Chair: _____ (print)/ Loralee (signature)/ [Signature]

Vice Chair: _____ (print)/ Paul Amato (signature)/ [Signature]

Member: _____ (print)/ _____ (signature)/ _____