



MINUTES

Minutes of a public meeting held on **August 31, 2022, 5:30 pm** at the Sandhill School, 16 Dewey Ave Sandwich, MA.

Members Present: Kimberley Walsh (KW), Roy Anderson (RA), Lillie Peterson-Wirtanen (LPW), & Hillary Foglia (HF)

Alternate Members Present: Elizabeth DeMelo (ED)

Members Absent: Jason Heyer (JH), Cameron Murphy (CM)

Staff Present: Joshua Wrigley (JW), Asst. Director of Natural Resources

1. PROPOSED CHANGES TO EXISTING REGULATIONS:

- a. **Vernal Pools** - KW: Opening Sandwich Conservation Commission meeting on August 31, 2022 at 5:32pm. Overview of the regs delivered by the chair focusing on the town regs being more strict than the state regs. Also focuses on how the draft looks. RA: The regs cannot be less strict than the state act. KW: Obviously it's a mess. I changed a lot of the table of contents to reflect kind of an easier to read version under procedures. Other towns have...these are the filing procedures for an RDA or NOI. I changed public hearing procedures a bit. I went through and did what I thought was more comprehensive. KW changes will be emailed to Commission. JW reminds Commission to stay on the agenda topics. JW explanation of how the board has approached the regs in the past, adding in sections. Conversation about the need for reference in the purpose statement as Arlene Wilson always argued. KW argues for a reduction in the amount of language under Vernal Pools. RA discussion about certification of a vernal pool and what that means. Roy asks if we need to have language about the certification process. HF: Should the Commission force applicants who have vernal pools on their property to certify them during the hearing process? RA: Does the Commission want all vernal pools in town to be certified? If we think it's a vernal pool, we'll treat it like a vernal pool. Or the applicant has to prove that it isn't. Public Comment: None.
- b. **Requirements for Conversion of Land into Agricultural Use** – Commission did not discuss.



c. **Activity in Buffer Zones** - KW: I had a question about the Limit of Work. In places where the slope exceeds 18%, the Commission has the right to increase the width of the buffer zone. JW explains what this means. KW: Now Trees of Significant Interest definition. HF: The language should read... "Native Trees" of Significant Interest. JW cautionary statement about DBH of 3". What the reg should be able to do? Discussion about the use of office policy for the preservation of native trees. ED: In support of allowing home owners to take down trees. Definition of Native Trees of Significant Interest are trees of 3" DBH or greater. ED: So the language for the imminent threat would go in the definitions. KW: Do we want a calculation for mitigation? HF: There was an instance where a consultant fought the planting of trees. But you can't replant a huge tree. You need small trees. But they need enough room to grow. RA: Question about what the goal of replanting is. JW: The purpose is in the last line of 8.5. Last of discussion about tree definition and DBH. JW to draft language that clarifies this. Public comment: None.


d. **Use of Fertilizer in Buffer/Resource Areas** – Board did not discuss.

e. **Activities within Coastal Resource Areas** - Discussion about habitable space within Barrier Beach/Coastal Dune. RA: Hallways are not considered habitable space. Discussion about what a footprint is. How much to expand? HF: 25% is floated. Lillie's idea to rate expansion by the size of the existing house. KW to come up with rating schedule for expansion. JW explanation of how the regs process will work. RA: The Sullivan's house has a huge accessory structure. HF: Maybe this should also be by scale? ED: I want to see something where we don't allow a new accessory structure in a resource area. Shed discussion continues. Make the sheds smaller? Decks discussion. How much should they expand? Create appendix for supplemental information? Public Comment: None.

f. **Private Docks, Piers and Moorings** – Board did not discuss.

Commission set date for next regs meeting - November 30 @ 5:30pm

Motion to adjourn (KW). Second (LP). 7:11pm

Signed: 
Name: Michelle Y. Raymond, Office Manager
10/23/22

Date: 10/23/22

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