

**Rochester Conservation Commission
May 18, 2021**

Present: Michael Conway, Chairman
Léna Bourque
Christopher Gerrior
Maggie Payne
Kevin Thompson

Absent: Daniel Gagne, Vice Chairman

Laurell J. Farinon, Conservation Agent
Marissa Perez-Dormitzer, Recording Secretary

The meeting convened by telephone and video conference via Zoom Meeting ID: 827 8639 4020. Chairman Conway called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and took attendance of Members, staff, applicants, and representatives. Chairman Conway read a message about remote participation and ground rules for the meeting. He stated the meeting was being recorded. Each presentation was limited to 10 minutes and 3 minutes were allowed for public comment. Chairman Conway stated that votes would be taken by roll call.

Public Hearing

Request To be Continued Until June 1, 2021

DEP SE# 272-0606 A Notice of Intent filed by Bendrix Bailey, 34 Gerrish Road, Rochester, MA 02770, for property located at 0 Gerrish Road, designated as Lot 29F on Rochester Assessors Map 43A.

The applicant seeks approval to construct a 700-foot long roadway to access a single-family house lot. Proposed work within the 100 Foot Buffer Zone to a bordering vegetated wetland consists of site clearing, construction of a 20' wide 700-foot long recycled asphalt roadway, site grading and construction of a water quality basin. The property owner of record is Edgewater Bog Realty Trust, 34 Gerrish Road, Rochester, MA 02770. The applicant's representative is Brian Grady of G.A.F. Engineering, Inc., 266 Main Street, Wareham, MA 02571.

Chairman Conway stated there was a request to continue to June 1, 2021.

A motion to continue to June 1, 2021 was made by Member Thompson and seconded by Member Gerrior. **The motion passed in a roll call vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained (5-0-0).**

Commission Business

For Signature

Minutes

A motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting was made by Member Thompson and seconded by Member Gerrior. Member Bourque abstained. **The motion passed in a roll call vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (4-0-1).**

Voucher: Conservation Agent: Mileage Voucher
Chairman Conway noted the voucher was not yet ready.

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Old Business

Discuss Board Administrator and Recording Secretary Positions

Agent Farinon reported that Victoria D'Antoni was selected for the position of Board Administrator and will start on May 24, 2021. She further reported that Lori Walsh was selected for the Recording Secretary position and will start at the June 1, 2021 meeting.

Discuss Conservation Agent Position/Review Resumes

Agent Farinon noted that Paul Ciaburri, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, was present in the Zoom meeting. Chairman Ciaburri, Member Bourque, Member Thompson, Member Gerrior, and Member Payne make up the selection committee for the Conservation Agent position. Agent Farinon stated that Town Counsel Blair Bailey recommended using candidate numbers instead of names during deliberation since the discussion is taking place in an open meeting.

Members discussed their recommendations for candidates based on a review of resumes. They agreed to interview candidates 1, 3, and 5.

A motion to take the next step in the process for candidates 1, 3, and 5 was made by Member Thompson and seconded by Member Gerrior. Members of the selection committee voted on the motion. Board of Selectmen Chairman Ciaburri, Member Bourque, Member Thompson, Member Gerrior, and Member Payne voted in favor of the motion. **The motion passed in a roll call vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained (5-0-0).**

There was discussion about the logistics of holding the interviews. Agent Farinon stated that Town Counsel Bailey indicated the next step could be done in executive session. Members agreed to hold 30-minute interviews for each candidate on May 25, 2021 starting at 6:00 p.m. with May 26, 2021 as a backup. Agent Farinon suggested conducting the interviews via Zoom.

Members discussed how to run the interviews. Agent Farinon suggested having a leader of the group to lead the interviews. Discussion ensued about how to organize the questions, and if each candidate should be asked the same questions.

A motion to nominate Member Gerrior to lead the committee was made by Member Thompson, and seconded by Member Bourque. A formal vote was not taken but all Members agreed.

Member Gerrior asked Members to send their questions to him, and said he would compile them. Member Thompson suggested each Member forward their top three questions.

New Business

Annual Reorganization of Conservation Commission

Chairman Conway stated that Members would need to select a new Chair that evening as he will be resigning. He mentioned that it was a great group of individuals and wished them the best. He also commended Agent Farinon for her great technical skills and noted she will be missed.

A motion to nominate Member Gerrior as Chairman was made by Member Thompson and seconded by Member Bourque. Chairman Conway abstained. **The motion passed in a roll call vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (4-0-1).**

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A motion to nominate Daniel Gagne as Vice Chairman was made by Member Thompson and seconded by Member Payne. Chairman Conway abstained. **The motion passed in a roll call vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (4-0-1).**

Confirm member availability for future site visits and meetings

Agent Farinon reported that the next meeting on June 1, 2021 will have several large filings. All Members present are available to attend the next meeting. Agent Farinon offered to take photos onsite for an upcoming filing.

Agent Farinon commended Michael Conway on his service to the Commission and thanked him for his leadership. Member Bourque and Member Payne stated they enjoyed working with Mr. Conway.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m. on a motion made by Member Thompson and seconded by Member Payne. **The motion passed in a roll call vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained (5-0-0).**

Marissa Perez-Dormitzer, Recording Secretary

Michael Conway, Chairman