

Minutes
Norfolk Conservation Commission
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Special Meeting
Zoom Video Meeting
5/14/21

Present: Martha Klein, Susannah Wood, Libby Borden, Shelley Harms

Also, Joseph Kelly, member of the public

Absent: Mattie Vandiver, Nash Pradhan, John Anderson

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the sewer line upgrade and its possible effects on the native habitat that Mr. Kelly has been working to establish and maintain on his property at 76 Maple Avenue. He contacted the commission about this last week, wondering if the commission's mandate would extend to our becoming involved.

Martha Klein began the meeting by saying that the commission has only advisory power, not enforcement. Shelley raised the subject of an article in Norfolk Now that mentioned a plan to do some clearing on Sewer District property along Rte. 44. She was especially concerned about how any such plan might impact riparian habitat. Libby reported that this was nothing to do with the repair work but had been suggested as part of an EDC agenda to make the approaches to town more attractive. She said that this was just one of many ideas floating around and that its main proponent has resigned from the EDC.

Mr. Kelly relayed that since he first brought the sewer work on Maple Ave. to our attention, he had reached an acceptable compromise with the aid of Ron Zanobi, Chair of the Sewer District Executive Committee. The sewer line will be moved 4 or 5 feet, which will protect a number of native trees from disturbance. He was very pleased with Ron's approach and his willingness to call in both the tree warden and Star Childs to assess the matter.

By unanimous consent the commission agreed to draft and send a letter by Wednesday morning, May 19th, in time for the Sewer District public meeting, to Ron Zanobi expressing our appreciation for his willingness to look into the situation with an open mind and to reach a good compromise on this issue.

The commission also urged Mr. Kelly to attend the public meeting and to report on his experience.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Submitted by Susannah Wood

5/19/21