Pursuant to the notice filed with the Town Clerk, the meeting of the Natural Resources Commission was held at 141 Keyes Road, first floor conference room, Concord, MA at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2020. The following Commissioners were present: Greg Higgins, Chair, Lynn Huggins, Ed Nardi, Nick Pappas, and Judy Zaunbrecher. Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye, Assistant Natural Resources Director Colleen Puzas, and Natural Resources Administrative Assistant Karen Bockoven were also present.

Chair Higgins opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Concord Wetlands Bylaw.

### APPROVE MEETING MINUTES
- December 18, 2019

### OTHER BUSINESS
- 2019 Blanding’s Turtle Report and 2020 Request for Funding
- Review of Town Meeting Warrant Articles
- Appoint Nicholas Pappas as the NRC representative to the 2229 Main Street Oversight Committee

### TO BE CONTINUED TO MARCH 18, 2020
- **NASHAWTUC COUNTRY CLUB**, 1844 Sudbury Road (Lot 1), NOI
- **NASHAWTUC COUNTRY CLUB**, 1844 Sudbury Road (Lot 3), NOI
- **SHAW**, 43 Old Bedford Road, NOI
- **McGNN**, 95 Coolidge Road, NOI

### DIRECTOR’S REPORT

### CONTINUANCES
- **GAMBINO**, 336 Lexington Road, NOI
- **GWIN, 296** Bedford Street, NOI

### NEW APPLICATIONS
- **CONCORD COUNTRY CLUB**, 246 Old Road to Nine Acre Corner, NOI

### CLOSE and ISSUE
- **ROBB**, 55 Musterfield Road
- **ASSABET NOMINEE TRUST**, 2194 Main Street

### CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE
- **ROBB**, 55 Musterfield Road
- **HBC, LLC**, 144 Laurel Street (partial)

Chair Higgins stated that the NRC meeting was being audio-recorded. He requested that anyone from the public recording the meeting so inform the Commission.

### APPROVE MEETING MINUTES
Commissioner Pappas moved to approve the December 18, 2019 NRC meeting minutes, as amended. Commissioner Zaunbrecher seconded. Commission Huggins abstained. All so voted.
OTHER BUSINESS

2019 Blanding’s Turtle Report and 2020 Request for Funding

Bryan Windmiller, 65 Arrowhead Road and Zoo New England’s Grassroots Wildlife Conservation Director, attended tonight meeting. Mr. Windmiller stated that they have been protecting Blanding’s Turtle nests since 2003 and releasing headstarted turtles since 2008. To date, approximately 465 headstarted Blanding’s Turtles have been released at Great Meadows and surrounding wetlands. They have been radio tracking approximately 100 turtles. Last year, for the first time, they tried to catch younger turtles and were successful in catching 15. Survival rates of the headstarted turtles are good, based on radio tracking during the first two years. Forty to 50% of the headstarted turtles are likely to reach adulthood. The oldest turtles they headstarted are 13 years old. Headstarted turtles likely start reproducing earlier than turtles in the wild. They are looking to consider their options over the next few years to decide whether or not to scale back the headstart program and do more monitoring and habitat enhancement.

Mr. Windmiller explained that they are in the second year of a 3-year contract with MassWildlife for conservation management of wood turtles in Middlesex and Essex County. Wood turtles are becoming rare in northeastern Massachusetts. At one time wood turtles were very common in Concord but now, Elm Brook is the only area in Concord with a remaining population. Currently they are tracking one male. Last year they caught one juvenile, and they will be studying the area again this year. Mr. Windmiller said Elm Brook can be problematic because in dry years the brook stops flowing. In 2016, they lost three adult females they had been tracking, probably because the turtles were easy prey. Mr. Windmiller stated there are a small number of wood turtles in Fort Pond Brook on the Acton/Concord line. The population of wood turtles is somewhat larger at Nashoba Brook in Acton.

Chair Higgins asked if a mild winter was good for the turtles. Mr. Windmiller replied that was probably a plus. They are more active in warmer weather. Warmer weather in June and July are better for nesting and hatching. The negative aspects are biological, such as disease, and increased competition.

Commissioner Huggins asked if the drawdown at Moore’s Swamp affected the turtles. Mr. Windmiller replied that the turtles seem healthy, though there is less suitable habitat.

Mr. Windmiller said he is requesting the usual amount of $3,350 from the NRC for the Blanding’s study at Great Meadows for nesting surveys, an annual report, and for radio transmitters.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Huggins moved to authorize the expenditure of $3,350 from the conservation account to be used for Blanding’s turtle and wood turtle research and protection. Commissioner Zaunbrecher seconded. All so voted.

Review of Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Chair Higgins requested that the NRC review relevant Town Meeting warrant articles to determine whether to take a position on them, and whether additional information is necessary.
ARTICLE 34 – ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT – PLANNED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT & TABLE I PRINCIPAL USE REGULATIONS

Commissioner Zaunbrecher suggested reviewing the part of the article that discusses “Low Impact for stormwater design and green building practices.” This may be something the NRC may want to comment on because it may relate to PRD projects they recommend for approval. Chair Higgins replied that is something the Engineering Department would review.

ARTICLE 40 – GENERAL BYLAW AMENDMENT – FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

Alice Kaufman, 1615 Lowell Road, attended tonight’s meeting. She requested the NRC’s consideration to support Article 40. Ms. Kaufman explained that Article 40 is the next step in a climate risk mitigation strategy for the Town. A few years ago Town Meeting voted to support Article 51 that set goals for greenhouse gas emissions that will help meet the Town’s targets. Article 40 is the next small logical step in reaching those goals. Absent federal guidelines, states and communities across the country are being asked to figure out if there are local strategies that can help reduce the risk of climate change impacts on communities. Concord alone cannot make a big impact but if other communities get involved it can make an impact. Ms. Kaufman explained that the Town is working on a Climate Action Plan coupled with resiliency and vulnerability measures to help protect resource areas in Town. Ms. Kaufman would like the NRC’s support for Article 40 which would help protect the environment, wildlife, and people.

Chair Higgins asked what this article would restrict. Ms. Kaufman replied that it will require that all new construction for residential and commercial be fossil free. There is an exception for affordable housing should the cost prohibit the ability to build. Ms. Kaufman said the new affordable house at the Gerow land is designed to be 100% electric. Ms. Kaufman said that in the long term it will be beneficial for everyone.

Commissioner Pappas said it will impact the operating costs for developers and contractors even though they can recoup the money when they sell the property. Chair Higgins said he would like to see potential new tenants benefit. Developers and contractors should be kept informed. Commissioner Zaunbrecher asked with regard to Affordable Housing is that something the NRC is concerned about. Chair Higgins said the Commission will discuss prior to Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 44 – COMMUNITY PRESERVATION APPROPRIATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Chair Higgins asked the NRC to send staff their comments for Items F, G, and H.

ARTICLE 46 – PUBLIC POSTING OF OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINTS

No position was taken on this article.
ARTICLE 49 – NEONICOTINOIDS PROHIBITION ON TOWN AGRICULTURAL LAND

Chair Higgins said the Commission should be prepared to discuss this article before Town Meeting and take a position, as some farmers who lease Town land use neonicotinoid treated seeds. Commissioner Zaunbrecher would like to obtain some information from the Agriculture Committee that was discussed at their December 19, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Pappas attended that meeting and does not recall anything conclusive being discussed. Chair Higgins and Director Kaye met with Ms. Grimwood and she did not have an answer on what alternatives may be used if neonicotinoids were banned. Director Kaye said will can reach out to the farmers who use Town land and get their feedback as to what they would use if neonicotinoids were prohibited.

Chair Higgins requested that any comments regarding the articles discussed above should be sent to staff by the end of the week.

Appoint Nicholas Pappas as the NRC representative to the 2229 Main Street Oversight Committee
Commissioner Huggins moved to appoint Nicholas Pappas as the representative to the 2229 Main Street Oversight Committee. Commissioner Zaunbrecher seconded. All so voted.

TO BE CONTINUED TO MARCH 18, 2020

Notice of Intent Application, Nashawtuc Country Club, 1844 Sudbury Road, DEP File #137-1509 (Lot 1)
The Applicant is seeking approval to construct a single-family dwelling and associated driveway, septic system, utilities and grading within Bordering Land Subject to Flooding and the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

At the request of the Applicant, Commissioner Huggins moved to continue the hearing until March 18, 2020. Commissioner Zaunbrecher seconded. All so voted.

Notice of Intent Application, Nashawtuc Country Club, 1844 Sudbury Road, DEP File #137-1510 (Lot 3)
The Applicant is seeking approval to construct a single-family house dwelling and associated driveway, septic system, utilities, and grading within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

At the request of the Applicant, Commissioner Huggins moved to continue the hearing until March 18, 2020. Commissioner Zaunbrecher seconded. All so voted.

Notice of Intent Application, Harold and Susan Shaw, 43 Old Bedford Road, DEP File #137-1504
The Applicant is seeking approval to construct a garage within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bank and Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

At the request of the Applicant, Commissioner Huggins moved to continue the hearing until March 18, 2020. Commissioner Zaunbrecher seconded. All so voted.
Notice of Intent Application, Paul McGinn, 95 Coolidge Road, DEP File #137-1502

The Applicant is seeking after-the-fact approval for clearing vegetation and native plant restoration within Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, Land Under Waterbodies and Waterways, the 200-foot Riverfront Area to the Sudbury River, and the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bank and Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

At the request of the Applicant, Commissioner Huggins moved to continue the hearing until March 18, 2020. Commissioner Zaunbrecher seconded. All so voted.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- Director Kaye said the League of Women Voters and River Stewardship Council are conducting their annual award nominations for outstanding river advocates. The nominations are due by April 24, 2020. Director Kaye asked the NRC to let her know of any organization or individual they would like to nominate.

- Mass Audubon just published their sixth edition of the Losing Ground initiative. It is for the timeframe between 2012 and 2017. Director Kaye said that the takeaways are that about the same amount of acreage is being developed. The good news is that there has been an increase in the amount of land being conserved. Previously it was approximately 40 acres of land now it is 55 acres per day across the state. That covers 27% of the total land in the state. Their goal is to protect 50% by 2050.

CONTINUANCES

Notice of Intent Application, Peter Gambino, 336 Lexington Road, DEP File #137-1515

Chair Higgins reopened the hearing seeking approval to construct an in-ground pool with associated patio and fence within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

List of plans and documents discussed at this meeting:

- Notice of Intent Application; and

Homeowner Peter Gambino and Paul Kirchner of Stamski and McNary attended tonight’s meeting. Mr. Kirchner informed the Commission that the property is approximately four acres. However, the actual useable area is only about one acre. There is a Conservation Restriction (CR) on the property, from the 1989 floodplain to the rear property line. The floodplain elevations have changed significantly here within the last few years, and the older floodplain has been included as the CR boundary. The homeowner would like to install an in-ground pool and patio behind the house, with portions of the fence within the 50-foot NBZ. A waiver has been submitted for that work. They are proposing an area of 4,280 s.f. as mitigation within the CR and wetland. Mr. Gambino said there is a walking path that is mowed that goes to almost the back of the property. Commissioner Huggins asked if Director Kaye has reviewed the CR. Director Kaye confirmed.

Chair Higgins asked why a fence is being proposed within the 50-foot NBZ. Mr. Kirchner replied that because of Historic District restrictions the pool needs to be located behind the house. The fence will encroach 6½ feet into the 50-foot NBZ. Mr. Gambino explained that hardscaping was needed around the pool to clean which then dictated where the fence would have to be located.
Chair Higgins requested that they consider other alternatives and rotate the layout of the pool in order for the fence to be outside of the 50-foot NBZ. Mr. Gambino stated they tried to locate the pool up against the existing hardscape. Mr. Gambino said there were many iterations of the plan that were discussed with a pool designer before they finalized their plan. They believe the location they chose is the best option. Chair Higgins explained that it is unusual for the NRC to allow a fence within the 50-foot NBZ. They could rotate the layout of the pool sideways behind the house and not vertically. The Commission will need to see that all options have been exhausted. Mr. Gambino said one of the reasons they chose the location for the pool was because they already had natural screening. Commissioner Pappas asked if they had considered natural screening near the driveway area. Mr. Gambino replied that they wanted to maintain the vista view.

Commissioner Huggins said the NRC has to consider the HDC regulations while still upholding Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Town’s bylaws. She said although 4,280 s.f. of mitigation is being proposed, the NRC has to weigh that against their 50-foot No Build policy.

Chair Higgins said the Commission needs to review the material submitted at tonight’s meeting. The NRC cannot make a determination until they review all materials and until the HDC has approved.

The Applicant agreed to continue the hearing until March 18, 2020 to allow for supplemental material and HDC review.

**Notice of Intent Application, Joseph Gwin, 296 Bedford Street, DEP File #137-1516**

Chair Higgins reopened the hearing seeking approval to construct a new garage within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

List of plans and documents discussed at this meeting:
- Notice of Intent Application; and
- Proposed Site Plan prepared by Perley Engineering LLC revised February 21, 2020.

Homeowner Joseph Gwin, and Scott Smyers and Kyle Cormier of Oxbow Associates, attended tonight’s meeting. Mr. Smyers explained that they chose the location for the garage based on the location of the house. The proposed area is mostly open space except for a few trees. Chair Higgins asked why the structure was proposed in the 50-foot NBZ when other alternatives are available. Commissioner Nardi agreed. Mr. Gwin said the area they are proposing is gravel and has been since they purchased the property. Mr. Smyers said they will look into other areas. He said they are providing substantial mitigation. They are proposing invasive plant removal and will provide 10:1 mitigation as required.

Chair Higgins explained that the NRC’s job is to protect the wetlands. The current turnaround has enough room and is outside the 50-foot NDZ. Mr. Gwin said the garage cannot go in the turnaround. There would not be enough room at the top of the driveway to turnaround. They could go into the woods that would require at least 10 trees being removed. Commissioner Huggins asked what type of trees would have to be removed.

Mr. Gwin said that there is an easement from the bordering property that ends at their property line. Currently they let people use their driveway to access a footpath. If they put the garage in that location they will not allow anyone on their property.
Chair Higgins said it would be helpful to show where the garage could be located, and the number and types of trees that would need to be removed. Director Kaye requested that the easement on the adjacent property also be shown. Mr. Gwin inquired if offering an easement on his property to allow public access was beneficial as a tradeoff for the proposed work. Chair Higgins responded that it would be difficult for the NRC to approve the garage as currently proposed within the 50-foot NBZ when there are other alternatives. Commissioner Nardi suggested putting other alternatives on a plan for the Commission to review. Mr. Smyers will discuss with Mr. Gwin.

Mr. Gwin confirmed that he will remove the fence from the 25-foot NDZ.

The Applicant agreed to continue the hearing until March 18, 2020 to allow for additional information to be provided.

NEW APPLICATIONS

Notice of Intent Application, Gregory Cincotta, Concord Country Club, 246 Old Road to Nine Acre Corner, DEP File #137-1517

Chair Higgins opened the hearing for after-the-fact removal of trees and earthwork disturbance associated with the construction of an irrigation pond within the 200-foot Riverfront Area of Jennie Dugan Brook.

List of plans and documents discussed at this meeting:
- Notice of Intent Application; and

Commissioner Huggins recused herself because she is a member of the Concord Country Club. Commissioner Huggins asked the NRC if it would be acceptable to remain in the room to listen to the discussion regarding the application. The NRC had no issues with the request.

Dave Crossman of B & C Associates attended tonight’s meeting. Mr. Crossman explained that the Concord Country Club has filed an application for after-the-fact work within 200 feet of the Jennie Dugan Brook. Mr. Crossman said the country club would like to construct a large irrigation pond to irrigate the fairways. He explained that ground disturbance and tree removal has already occurred. Mr. Crossman has delineated the wetland boundary and the Riverfront Area. A survey also been done. Within the 200-foot Riverfront Area approximately 88 SF of soil was excavated. In addition, 452 SF of vegetation was cut and cleared. This is the extent of work within jurisdictional resource areas. Mr. Crossman said that the proposed irrigation pond will be located outside of the 200-foot Riverfront Area. They will restore the area where the vegetation was cut down and put the soil back in the area that was excavated. Mr. Crossman was told by Peter Rappoccio, Golf Course Superintendent, that one oak was cut down in the Riverfront Area. He is not sure how many shrubs were removed. Mr. Crossman said they will plant three large trees to replace the oak tree and they will plant 50 shrubs. Chair Higgins requested that they note on the plan the types of shrubs and where they will be planted. He requested that they also note the type of erosion controls and location, type of matting and seed mix.

Gregor McGregor, 70 Williams Road, inquired if the greencards had been submitted. Director Kaye confirmed. Mr. McGregor stated that he is an abutter to the Applicant’s property, but is attending tonight as an attorney on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Bernd Comjean, 99 Williams Road. Mr. McGregor explained that they review site conditions before and after, the legality of a Notice of Intent.
supporting plans and other documents to see if an Applicant meets the requirements of the Wetlands Protection Act and regulations. If applicable they also review the town’s Bylaw and regulations. As a result of their initial review for this project, they determined that the notice for the hearing is not the one specified on the NRC’s website. Mr. McGregor said that on the abutter notification form submitted by the Applicant, the information that directs someone to the Town’s website was omitted. He believes that the notice intentionally did not cite the Town’s bylaw. Mr. McGregor said that the application was not filed under the Bylaw. Director Kaye replied that the legal notice includes language that the filing is in accordance with the WPA as well as the Bylaw. Mr. McGregor said the Notice of Intent application should also note the bylaw. In addition, Mr. McGregor stated the requirements in the NRC’s enforcement letter are not being obeyed. The Applicant’s application is not offering to satisfy the Town’s bylaw. Mr. McGregor said they will be seeking outright disapproval of the entire project and also seeking restoration of all the resource areas and the upland areas. They are seeking this for the benefit of Jennie Dugan Brook and its watershed and they would like the soil to remain on site. They believe the soil is an important feature for the brook’s watershed. Removing the soil, flattening the site, and putting a large impervious pool in for irrigation purposes will dry out the watershed. The Jennie Dugan Brook feeds the Town’s water supply.

Mr. McGregor stated that in 2018, two court cases from the Massachusetts Appeals Court stated that conservation commissions do not have to approve after-the-fact Notice of Intent applications. Commissions have the authority to require complete restoration of the altered resource areas even if a Notice of Intent is submitted to legalize any work even with mitigation. Commissions also have the authority to consider not accepting Notice of Intent applications until the site is restored. Mr. McGregor said the starting point for this application should be the restoration of the Buffer Zone and the Riverfront Area. Mr. McGregor agrees with the NRC regarding any planting protocols and the professionals who will be doing the work. This information should be on a plan in order to confirm that all work is compliant. Mr. McGregor stated that an alternative analysis should also be submitted for any work in the Riverfront Area.

Mr. McGregor explained that the golf course abuts property owned by Mr. and Mrs. Comjean. Mr. McGregor provided pictures of the area where trees had been removed. He also provided a GIS aerial map to show where his clients’ property is located in relation to the Applicant’s property. Chair Higgins stated that the map does not show the location 200-foot Riverfront Area. Mr. McGregor acknowledged and said they do not necessarily agree with what the Applicant has submitted on their plan as the delineation. Mr. McGregor said that CPW has put together a list of questions for the Applicant to present to the ZBA. Mr. McGregor said the list has many important comments. Much of what CPW is looking for is relevant for the NRC in order to review this project.

Mr. Crossman replied that none of the work is within 100 feet of BVW. Other than restoration, they are not proposing any work within the Riverfront Area. There are no other alternatives other than restoration.

Chair Higgins asked if a survey had been done before the work. Mr. Crossman said it had not. Director Kaye asked where the existing contours were derived from. Mr. Crossman said there may have been other plans for other work done. Mr. Rappoccio said the site was staked and survey elevations were obtained. Chair Higgins asked if they located trees and vegetation. Mr. Rappoccio said they did not. He thought they were far enough away from NRC jurisdiction. Director Kaye
asked if the topography was shot prior to any disturbance then the treeline presumably was as well, and should be included on the plan.

Mr. Crossman stated that the wetland line and Riverfront line have been reviewed by staff. The Buffer Zone does not come outside the Riverfront Area at all.

Chair Higgins said it is important to show all pre-existing conditions on the plan so the Commission can understand the scope of the project and verify all after-the-fact work and appropriate restoration. Chair Higgins said to also note on the plan where the pipes will be located and how they will tie into the irrigation system. Mr. Rappoccio replied that there are two wells on the property and both are registered in Massachusetts. They only irrigate if necessary. They do not come close to amount they are allowed to use. Mr. Rappaccio said currently the two wells pump straight into an irrigation system which is very inefficient. The new system will pump water into a holding pond where it can then be dispersed onto the golf course more evenly and efficiently. Currently their wells run for extended periods of time.

Chair Higgins said at a future meeting there will have to be a discussion about what will happen for any overflow of water in the pond. Mr. Rappoccio said he would be surprised if the irrigation pond ever overflowed. Chair Higgins stated that a professional opinion would be required.

Commissioner Zaunbrecher said it appears from the topography that water is currently running down a gulley. Mr. Crossman replied that the ditch is pre-existing and probably manmade. Commissioner Zaunbrecher inquired whether the stockpiles are adequately protected from erosion. Mr. Crossman said they are below grade and the soil is very sandy.

The Applicant agreed to continue the hearing until April 1, 2020 for review by the ZBA and for additional information to be provided.

**CLOSE AND ISSUE PERMITS**

**Robb, 55 Musterfield Road, DEP File #137-1500**
Chair Higgins reopened the hearing seeking approval to construct an addition to the existing single-family dwelling, modify the septic system, and install a vegetated stormwater drainage swale within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Huggins moved to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions for DEP File #137-1500 with Findings A and B, Standard Conditions 1-19, and Special Conditions 20-53. Commissioner Nardi seconded. All so voted.

**Assabet Nominee Trust, 2194 Main Street, DEP File #137-1513**
Chair Higgins reopened the hearing seeking approval to demolish an existing building and construct two single-family homes within the 200-foot Riverfront Area to the Assabet River and 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE

Robb, 55 Musterfield Road, DEP File #137-1096
Commissioner Nardi moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance for DEP File #137-1096. Commissioner Huggins seconded. All so voted.

HBC, LLC, 144 Laurel Street, DEP File #137-1440
Commissioner Pappas moved to issue a Partial Certificate of Compliance for DEP File #137-1440. Commissioner Huggins seconded. All so voted.

Commissioner Zaunbrecher moved to adjourn. Commissioner Nardi seconded. All so voted. This meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Bockoven
Administrative Assistant