

MINUTES OF THE NEW CASTLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Tuesday, September 7th, 2021 – 5:00 p.m. (Macomber Room)

Seeking recommendation to repair and replace seawall for John and Irene Bush at 17 Becker Lane, Tax Map 18, Lot 33.

Members Present: Conni White, Chair, Beth Barnhorst, Tom Chamberlin, Lynn McCarthy, Vice-Chair, Iain Moodie.

Members Absent: Darcy Horgan, Bill Marshall, Jim Rini, Brandon Tanguay.

Others Present: Steve Riker, Ambit Engineering.

Chair White called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

1. Applications.

A. Seeking recommendation to repair and replace seawall for John and Irene Bush at 17 Becker Lane, Tax Map 18, Lot 33.

Steve Riker of Ambit Engineering presented the plans for a conditional use permit and DES wetland permit to repair and replace the existing stone revetment at the Bushs' home. There is one section in particular that is in need of repair. Mr. Riker explained that they are proposing to replace the revetment in kind, with the same stone material and within the same footprint. The slope will be one to one. The proposal also calls for 10 native shrubs to be planted at the top of the slope. Since some temporary work will occur above the highest observable tide line, the Applicants have to go before the Town in addition to NHDES.

The revetment repair area is 284 square feet. Mr. Riker showed cross sections of the revetment wall, which specified the stone sizes and fabric to be used. The wall will be dry-laid and does not use concrete or mortar. Mr. Riker also discussed how with the projected sea level rise, the water will still not be above the wall height in the year 2100.

Mr. Moodie mentioned that there is a view easement for the property, and plants within this easement area cannot be over a certain height. Mr. Riker reviewed the plans and confirmed that the plantings would be outside of the easement area.

Mr. Moodie motioned to recommend approval of the application to repair and replace the revetment for John and Irene Bush, 17 Becker Lane (Tax Map 18, Lot 33) per the Ambit Engineering plan dated 06/28/2021. Mr. Chamberlin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approve minutes from August 2021 meeting.

Ms. McCarthy made a motion to approve the August 2021 minutes as amended. Mr. Chamberlin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. New Business.

None.

4. Announcements.

Chair White announced that New Castle has been awarded a Coastal Resiliency grant. The grant consists of analysis and recommendations by an environmental engineer. The engineer would perform a hydrology study. A wetland scientist will flag the extent of the wetlands. Dave Murray will later create a video of the wetlands as well. The data will be given to the NHDOT, who will work on potentially installing a culvert across Wentworth Road. Chair White explained that the project will start in the winter, and Tracy Degnan of the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) will coordinate. Ms. Degnan will need volunteers to assist.

5. Adjourn.

Ms. Barnhorst moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Moodie seconded. The motion carried, unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Rumph
Secretary