



Waltham Conservation Commission

April 9, 2026

Meeting Minutes

Meeting took place via public Zoom call with participation information posted at City Hall, Government Center, and on the Commission's page of the city web site. Zoom information was circulated directly to all applicants and others on the public agenda.

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM.

Attendees: Chair Bill Doyle, Vice Chair Lisa Limonciello, Gerard Dufromont, Michael Donovan, Anja Shafer. Conservation Agent Julia Abbott.

Absent: Frank Fitzgerald.

Public Meeting

Request for Determination of Applicability

Applicant: Atrius Health – John Clark

Project Location: 1601 Trapelo Road.

Project Description: Installation of an emergency generator, associated conduit, and a dumpster adjacent to the existing building within previously developed 100-foot buffer zone.

Taylor Donovan, Environmental Scientist with VHB, was present for the applicant. Ms. Donovan presented maps to locate the project and summarized the proposed work. She presented plans. Ms. Limonciello and Ms. Shafer asked clarifying questions about the generator, fuel storage, and proposed dumpster location. Ms. Donovan did not have all the specific details, but noted this would be updated in the site's overall O&M plan. It was also noted that the site has an existing fuel storage permit, and ConCom will receive notice of any changes. Mr. Dufromont also asked for specific details about the generator, which Ms. Donovan did not have at hand. Mr. Donovan asked Ms. Donovan to confirm that this is a self-contained system, which she did. Mr. Doyle offered some additional information for the commission regarding this type of equipment and installation as well as typical maintenance and safety procedures. He noted that the plans include protection measures, even though there will not yet be fuel on site during installation. He prompted a discussion of whether this area is jurisdictionally Buffer Zone or Isolated Land Subject to Flooding. Mr. Doyle and Ms. Abbott agreed that it is probably not jurisdictional, but it is marked on some maps and the applicant's conservative approach of assuming it to be jurisdictional is appreciated. No field delineation was done. Mr. Doyle also noted that if the basin was built after the November 1, 1987, regulatory cut-off, it would be considered a basin and not a jurisdictional wetland. The commission concluded that this is not jurisdictional.

Motion by Mr. Donovan to issue a Negative 2 determination. Ms. Shafer seconded. In favor: Limonciello, Donovan, Shafer, Dufromont. **Motion passed.**

Commission Business

- Approval of meeting minutes from 3-26-2026. Motion to approve by Ms. Limonciello, seconded by Mr. Donovan. In favor: Limonciello, Donovan, Shafer, Dufromont. **Motion passed.**

Approved 4-23-2026

Correspondence

- NOTED: MA DEP public comment period on revising its 1990 air quality noise regulations, through April 30.
- NOTED: Meadowsaping for Biodiversity. Community Pollinator Festival at McDevitt Middle School 4/11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Old Business

- Administrative Tree Removal Policy. The commission drafted this policy in 2024-2025 but did not finalize it. The intent is to allow certain limited work through administrative approval by the conservation agent without requiring an RDA. Discussion of details, including required replacements, hazard determination by a certified arborist, and potential applicant abuse. Ms. Limonciello asked more generally if new homeowners are notified that they are in jurisdiction when they move into Waltham. This is not a commission responsibility. Ms. Limonciello asked to modify the language to specify that the conservation agent will approve, not any other staff. The reason for the specific numbers of removals and replacement ratios were discussed. Removal numbers were based on similar policies in other towns and ratios are based on past commission replanting requirements. Comparison to alternative use of DBH caliper vs. number of saplings. Staff will review and make the minor changes discussed then recirculate the document, and the commission will plan to vote to approve at the next meeting (4/23).

Site Visit Reports

- 455 Totten Pond Road. NOI filing for the next meeting. Ms. Abbott is working to schedule a visit prior to the meeting. She will notify commissioners of the time and date if any wish to attend.
- 400 Beaver Street (Bentley lower driveway). Mr. Doyle noted that placement of the erosion controls and site inspection will be delayed by upcoming events (graduation and World Cup housing).

New Business

- ZBA request for comment on new comprehensive permit for 282 Trapelo Road (200 Trapelo Road–former Fernald parcel). This location is not in WPA jurisdiction. Discussion. The commission approved of responding with the standard text.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Limonciello, seconded by Ms. Shafer. All present in favor. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.