

**Conservation Commission Meeting Tuesday, August 21, 2018 Town Hall, Selectmen's
Room, 7:00 PM
Meeting Minutes**

Chairman David Haines called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Present commissioners: Mike Cavatorta, Eric Wojtowicz, Jon Clements, Sabrina Moreau, and Edward Knight.

Absent commissioners: John Henry

Present: Conservation Administrator, Erica Cross; Secretary to the Commission, Cayla Paulding; intern, Haley Rivers

7:05 PM

**Notice of Intent - DEP# 104-1041 - 153 North Washington St., Map 256, Lot #19.00
Proposed Addition to Single Family Home, James Scott**

David Tetreault presented. The proposed addition is 54 feet from edge of wetland. A full foundation is planned but with no basement. They are planning to move soil offsite for disposal. There will be no intrusion into septic the septic areas. A silt fence is proposed at the edge of wetland. D, Haines requested the applicant move the silt fence to 25 feet from the wetland.

Jon Clements motioned to issue an Order of Conditions. Sabrina Moreau seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Notice of Intent – DEP # 104-1044 - Bardwell Street, Map 272, Lot #5.00 Proposed Solar
Array, David Albrecht**

David Haines stated that the abutters were not properly notified and therefore the applicant has requested a continuance to Sept. 10. There was no discussion on this matter.

Mike Cavatorta moved to continue the hearing to Sept. 10. David Haines seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Notice of Intent Con'd – DEP # 104-1036 87 Metacomet St., Map 104, Lot 33.00 Proposed
Water Ski Course, David Fuhrman**

Applicants have asked for continuance for to Sept 10. There was no discussion on this matter.

Mike Cavatorta moved to continue the hearing to Sept. 10. Sabrina Moreau seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7:15 PM

**Notice of Intent Con'd – DEP # 104-1040 0 Gulf Road, Map 215, Lots 4, 5, 21, & 29
Proposed Solar Project, BWC Scarborough Brook, LLC**

Applicants have asked for continuance until Sept 10. There was no discussion on this matter.

Edward Knight moved to continue the hearing to Sept 10. Mike Cavatorta seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7:17 PM

Notice of Intent Con'd– DEP #104-1043 763 Federal St., Map 218, Lot 2.00 Proposed Solar Array, Citrine Power, LLC

Cela Sinay- Bernie and Pushya Desai presented. New plans were presented which were scaled down so that the project is out of NHESP priority habitat. The applicants presented a letter from NHESP confirming their lack of jurisdiction. The project will not require removing any vegetation according to the applicant. The proponents are completing an alternatives analysis for the work proposed within 200 ft of riverfront. There was a discussion on seed mixture used where Citrine expressed that they often use hydroseed but they are happy to leave the vegetation as is. E. Cross stated that the alterations within riverfront must be under 10% of the riverfront of the property. Ms. Sinay-Bernie answered questions regarding the mowing needs of the field. As it is a well field, the Belchertown Water District will need to continue to mow the area regularly to prevent any woody vegetation from establishing.

7:38 PM

Abutter Paul Boivin asked for clarification about how DEP reviews plans and signals if it is complete. Mr. Boivin was informed that while DEP does review and provide comments, the Commission is responsible for the determinations at a local level. Mr. Boivin is concerned about wildlife habitat (deer, moose, migratory birds, herpetofauna, game birds) and points out a culvert/swale and test well that may not be labelled on map. D. Haines notes that it is likely not jurisdictional, though the Commission will require further investigation. Mr. Boivin discussed significant beaver activity around the lot, and is concerned that the metals from the solar panels (zinc, etc.) will leach into drinking water. D. Haines pointed out that that concern will be addressed by DEP's state drinking water and water supply program. The applicant has submitted an application to DEP Drinking Water. Mr. Boivin brought up bird deaths associated with solar fields. Ms. Sinay-Bernie and Mr. Desai stated that this is not a risk in this proposal as they are using a different technology than sites that had previously had bird deaths.

Jean-Marie Leone in attendance (resident but not abutter) sought clarification regarding an award that the solar company received. It was clarified that Citrine is modeling their project based on a project that had received awards for dual use within a well field. Ms. Leone stated that she had sent in toxin reports and asked if they were being added to the record. E. Cross stated that she had received them a few minutes prior to the meeting start time and would be printing and adding them to the file shortly.

Citrine stated that they will provide more information regarding the 10% threshold for riverfront alterations, the associated alternatives analysis, and data sheets for the wetlands delineation.

Jon Clements moved to continue the hearing to Sept 10. Mike Cavatorta seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8:04 PM

Notice of Intent Con'd– DEP #104-1042 206 Jabish St., Map 244, Lot 60.00 Proposed Solar

Array, Citrine Power, LLC

Cela Sinay-Bernie and Pushya Desai stated that they have submitted plans to DEP Drinking Water program. All the proposed work, including the fence, are now located outside the inner 100 foot riparian zone. The alternatives analysis is quite similar to the previous hearing but may require some additional information per DEP Circuit Riders. As this is a secondary use of an open field, the project does not require any tree removal or clearing in general. Citrine plans on doing a cost analysis as part of its riverfront alternatives analysis. The biggest biggest cost to the company is the tie-in fee from National Grid. This property is also owned by the Belchertown Water District. D. Haines requested that the applicants address concerns from the abutters regarding galvanized steel leaching into the water supply. Ms. Sinay-Bernie stated that Citrine will be using stainless steel.

Jean-Marie Leone (resident but not abutter) has concern for future of Belchertown's drinking water supply and D. Haines stated that the Commission will look into her concerns in coordination with DEP Drinking Water program and review the material that she had submitted.

Mike Cavatorta motioned to continue the hearing to Sept. 10. Jon Clements seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8:23 PM

Notice of Intent Con'd– DEP #104-XXXX – Requested Continuance to 9/10/2018 135 Hamilton St., Map 230, Lot 35.00 Proposed Solar Array, Citrine Power, LLC

Citrine has put this project on hold until they see if the other two projects are approvable stating that this project would not be financially viable without the previous two. The applicant requested a continuance to Sept. 10.

Mike Cavatorta motioned to continue the hearing to Sept. 10. Sabrina Moreau seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items: Bills, Minutes and Miscellaneous Matters

Requests for Certificates of Compliance

1. 23 Pepper Ridge Road, DEP#104-749; BCC#05-28

E. Cross stated that the site was well stabilized and built to substantial compliance. D. Haines moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance. M. Cavatorta seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. 12 Magnolia Lane, DEP#104-0863; BCC#08-25

E. Cross showed the Commission photos of the site demonstrating the lack of stabilization. The presence of rivulets on the lawn was evidence of erosion off the site. E. Cross stated that the Order requires an as-built of the site. E. Knight moved that the Commission take no action at this time. M. Cavatorta seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. 41 Hickory Hill, DEP#104-0863; BCC#08-25

E. Cross stated that she was satisfied with the stabilization of this site. E. Knight moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance. M. Cavatorta seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. 28 Magnolia Lane, DEP#104-0863; BCC#08-25

E. Cross showed the Commission photos of the site demonstrating the lack of stabilization. The presence of rivulets on the lawn was evidence of erosion off the site. E. Cross stated that the Order requires an as-built of the site. E. Knight moved that the Commission take no action at this time. M. Cavatorta seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Requests for Extensions

8:37 PM

1. Lot 11A State St, DEP#104-0970; BCC#15-40

E. Cross recommends a one year extension, as the applicants requested. E. Knight moved to issue a one year extension. M. Cavatorta seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Enforcement Actions

8:39 PM

Keith Morris here to discuss restoration plan within 50 ft buffer of Summer Hill. E. Cross was satisfied with the plan and recommended the applicant move forward with the plans. E. Cross requested a specific timeline for completion. D. Haines stated that the work should be completed by Sept. 15.

Mike Cavatorta moved to accept the restoration plan with the deadlines as discussed. Jon Clements seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8:52 PM

Sabrina Moreau recused herself from enforcement actions against the gravel pit owned by Jim Hayward on Allen St. as she is an abutter. E. Cross updated the Commission on the restoration progress and that the silt removal was stalled due to the wet weather.

New Business

E. Cross gave a summary of the Conservation Departments activities. She discussed work with stormwater committee on updating by-laws. She and C. Paulding will be attending a certified stormwater inspector course for the Town's new MS4 permit. E. Cross discussed the "think blue" campaign and the implementation of the stormwater management program. E. Cross met with Tim McKenna at the Quabbin boat ramp to see the completed project. She also conducted a site walk with the state EOEEA for the grant application at the Dubois property last Friday. John Gioia and E. Cross discussed using site for forestry, education, and outreach programs. E. Cross also toured and provided technical advice on the soon-to-be proposed sensory trail at Lake Wallace. The project will likely include a boardwalk over wetlands with potential classroom areas.

9:07 PM

Sabrina Moreau moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING Monday, September 10, 2018