



Conservation Commission Meeting Agenda

Monday, January 28, 2019 Town Hall, Auditorium, 7:00 PM

Present: David Haines, Mike Cavatorta, Sabrina Moreau, Jon Clements, Edward Knight, Eric Wojtowicz;
Conservation Administrator Erica Cross and Secretary Cayla Paulding. C. Paulding took minutes.
Absent: Associate member David Lamb

D. Haines opened the meeting 6:00 pm

6:00pm

Discussion Items: Bills, Minutes and Miscellaneous Matters

- Letters of Interest for Open Commissioner Seat
10:29 E. Wojtowicz motions to recommend Heather McCann; J. Clements seconds
- New Business

10:16 PM E. Cross brings up issues with abutters encroaching on Holland Glenn. E. Cross requests we survey the area in order to uphold the CR. We have an estimate and we have the money set aside already.

J. Clements motions to allow it; E. Wojtowicz seconds; all in favor.

10:18 There is emergency certification for 490 Daniel Shays highway where a washed out driveway crossing prevented safe access to the house. The emergency certification enabled applicant to install a pipe or box culvert to contain stormwater flow and then add stone material of similar size to shore up eroded sections of driveway. J. Clements motions to ratify; S. Moreau seconds; all in favor.

10:21 letter of support for Palmer to do a feasibility study of the MCRT via MassTrails grant; S. Moreau motions to submit letter; E. Wojtowicz seconds; all in favor

- Enforcement Actions
 1. Notice of Violation: 58 S. Washington St. – Discuss engineering
10:04 PM E. Cross discusses issues. Needs concomm approval to force Pirog to pay for engineer to fix runoff issue. Concomm agrees that Pirog must make amends. Engineer must be selected and design made by 3/25. S. Moreau motions to order Pirog to complete requirements written by E. Cross; J. Clements seconds; all in favor
- Request for Certificates of Compliance
 1. 680, 690, & 700 S. Washington St. – DEP# 104-0996, BCC# 16-48
10:09 PM E. Cross was able to view sites before snow and says sites are stabilized. D. Haines would like to do site visit.
- Bills
E. Knight motions to pay bills, E. Wojtowicz seconds; all in favor

7:00pm

Notice of Intent

Lot 2 Allen St, Single family house with driveway with stream crossing and sewage disposal installation and

private well, Map 231, Lot 19.01

Jeffrey A. Bessette

7:04pm

S. Moreau recuses herself since she is an abutter. Donald Frydryck presents the project. They are looking for approval for a 600 ft driveway. There is BVW on both sides of the project. Wetland disturbance is at the crossing. They are proposing a bottomless culvert. There are rain gardens and level spreaders on plan to take care of storm water. There is 250 sq ft of disturbance. They have proposed an area of wetland replication. They have not submitted for water quality certificate yet. They are waiting until after the hearing to see if plans change. The crossing was not flagged, but wetlands have been flagged. D. Frydryck says the building lot is located in this way because there is no room for septic system in other configurations. It would take 15 feet to get across the wetlands. D. Haines asks if wetland replication impacts neighboring properties? D. Frydryck says no. M. Cavatorta is concerned about how close to the BVW the building envelope is. He would like the order of conditions to address this concern with maybe a fence or other boundary marker. D. Haines says they can specify what is and is not allowed.

Public Comment

Sabrina Moreau: concerned that the intermittent stream does not actually dry up. D. Frydryck will provide information at next meeting. E. Cross would like to see more information on the wetland replication (such as plantings) and more information on how the construction will take place without hurting the BVW.

D. Haines says the hydrology of the area is interesting, and he is concerned that the water may be groundwater. He would like the stream stats to be submitted.

M. Cavatorta motions to continue until 2/25; E. Wojtowicz seconds; all in favor

Notice of Intent

536 Federal St, raze and rebuild single family house, Map 102, Lot 60

Zenaida Ortega & Maureen Desabrais

7:24 pm

Jarred Goss (contractor) presents project. They are proposing to raze current structures on property and construct house with smaller footprint. They will have slab foundation with no basement. The site is currently on sewer and town water. D. Haines asks about sediment and erosion controls. E. Cross discusses a conversation she had with the applicants regarding their sediment and erosion controls. They will need to cut 9 pine trees in the front of the property, and 5 small trees to the left, and 6 trees to the right in order for construction vehicles to access the property. The construction vehicles are primarily large excavators and dumpster trucks. D. Haines brings up replanting trees that are taken and reducing number of trees being removed. D. Haines would like to see a final plan with sediment and erosion controls and revised tree clearing plans. S. Moreau asks about specifics of plan. Jarrod says they will stay above water table to avoid dewatering. They are also planning to completely remove old foundation and build a new one.

M. Cavatorta motions to continue until 2/11; S. Moreau seconds; all in favor

Request for Determination Con'd Requested continuance to 2/11/2019

357 Daniel Shays Hwy, Solar Array construction, Map 226, Lot 45.01

Clean Focus Renewables

No discussion was held regarding this proposal.

J. Clements motions to continue; S. Moreau seconds; all in favor

Notice of Intent Con'd– DEP# 104-1051 Requested continuance to 2/11/2019

260 Ware Road, Solar Array construction, Map 245, Lot 62.00

ZPT Energy Solutions II, LLC

No discussion was held regarding this proposal.

S. Moreau motions to continue; E. Wojtowicz seconds; all in favor

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

7:41 pm

Tom Reedy introduces himself and his colleagues. David Kelly of Meridien Associates says nothing major has changed in the plans from last meeting. The plans now include more specifics about project. D. Haines asks about where the discharge from the basin in the southern array is going. Andrea Kendall says it is either going into an intermittent stream or the wetlands/intermittent stream off site according to the hydrology layers from MassGIS. D. Haines asks if anyone has ever field checked this. Andrea Kendall says that is something that can be conditioned. Andrea Kendall updated the data logger information. Since last hearing, they have added additional data loggers in Scarborough brook, 1 at the confluence of each intermittent stream, 1 further downstream of the confluence points. They will be seeking permission from property owners to install data logger 6 and to get access to retrieve the data loggers in order to get the data if doing it remotely does not work out. They will retrieve the data at a minimum after each rainfall event. D. Haines asks if they can get baseline before construction. Andrea Kendall thinks it is possible. S. Moreau would like to make sure it is definitely possible. Rep says that the dept of fish and wildlife says getting a baseline is low value. S. Moreau questions that statement. Andrea Kendall says they still need permission to install data loggers. S. Moreau asks what temperature is lethal. Andrea Kendall says she does not have exact data, but can find that information. Rep says that according to mass fish and wildlife, 80 degrees is lethal. E. Cross asked about the change from the 68 degree threshold to the 80 degree threshold that they are asserting. S. Moreau wants to know at what point past 68 degrees does the health of the fish suffer, and what part of the fish life cycle does this affect? Matt Parlon says 80 degrees is acceptable for only a short amount of time whereas 69 degrees is acceptable for a longer period of time. E. Cross says we have Caleb Slater's (from DFW) contact information so we can confirm information. Andrea Kendall says they are putting conductivity loggers in the intermittent streams. S. Moreau would like conductivity loggers downstream of the basins in order to measure sedimentation. D. Haines asks if many parameters can be included in the data loggers. AK says she thinks so but she cannot say for certain. D. Haines asks about structure of data loggers. AK says she thinks there is rebar anchored in to attach the data loggers. S. Moreau asks if weather station can be installed prior to beginning of construction. AK says they may be able to do something temporarily, but there probably will not be too much variability between that and the closest weather station. D. Haines asks about test pits. David Kelly says the test pits show sandy loam and groundwater at 4-5 feet. GZA did the test pits not soil borings.

Public Comment:

Lee Paddy asks if they are going to close or continue. D. Haines is unclear at this point.

Elizabeth Pols: wants to know why data loggers were not put in initially? D. Haines says it is a process. S. Moreau says it is important to come to a consensus on the best data to obtain and it does not make sense to get winter data. She is concerned about run off on frozen ground.

Judith Mann: wishes commission would deny project

Mary McCurdy: has an article that says northeast US is experiencing effects of climate change faster than other parts of the US. This includes increased precipitation and storm water. This could impact wells and septic systems that people depend on. Besides temperature, increased amount of silt in the water can also kill fish. Gulf Rd is a poor choice.

Linda Chalfant: requests that videos of Scarborough brook be seen by commissioners. They were submitted to E. Cross, but unfortunately they were unable to be viewed at the meeting.

Ken Elsteen: there is a large variability in rainfall depths for the area. He elaborates on modelling and trends. He thinks that the project would be better suited in another location such as an old farm.

Mark Spiro: presenting remarks on Steve Garabedian's behalf. Discusses how hard he and his fellow residents have worked to come up with the research they have. He asks commission if they are prepared to approve project with Blue wave after all of this time. There was modest rainfall this past week and Gulf Rd could not handle it. He brings up slope and soil concerns. The GZA soil report shows significant bedrock with thin overburden on top of it. This is bad for water infiltration.

Mark Alia: the burden is on the developer and the commission can reject the reports that the developers have provided at their discretion. Run off will increase when the trees get removed. This is an issue in winter when the runoff can freeze. If commission approves project, he thinks that the residents should be able to have a say in making the conditions for the approval.

Lee Paddy: discusses the use of basins (both for infiltration and sedimentation). According to Steve Garabedian, all the mitigations proposed in this project will fail because the site is just inappropriate for the project.

Judith Mann: has documents for EPA BMP standards that she is going to submit.

Linda Chalfant: discusses alternative sites that were available at the time that Gulf Rd was selected for the project.

Dinas Grabesh: he is not convinced that the project will not impact the brook trout. He wants to know what will happen if monitors show changing temperatures. Andrea Kendall says that if they see trends of increasing temperatures they will identify corrective measures to implement.

M. Cavatorta asks D. Haines if removed trees will cause a lot more stormwater and since it is a complex site, he wants to hear geologist opinion. D. Haines says the trees do remove water from the soil from that is the whole point of incorporating detention basins and other proposed engineering solutions. Gulf Rd is a steep area and thus a very flashy site. M. Cavatorta is concerned about unpredictability of rainstorms despite all the science and engineering that has been put into this project. D. Haines says they are relying on peer reviews and engineers to do these calculations and he is not going to challenge the experts.

J. Clements motions to close hearing and take 21 days to make decision; S. Moreau seconds; all in favor.

M. Cavatorta left 9:42 PM

9:42 PM Bob Stover is representing Hickory Hills to discuss wetland replication. Berkshire Design Co has come up with preliminary plan. D. Haines says that Bob Stover must contact DEP to get water quality certificate and to revise plan to show an as-built construction of the basin

10:31 all motion to adjourn

Continued Discussion Items As Needed

NEXT MEETING Monday, February 11, 2019

J. Clements motions to approve minutes, E. Wojtowicz seconds, all in favor