

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Minutes of July 13, 2016

Members present: Steve Parretti, JoAnn Schold, Joshua Soojian, Jim Cooper

Meeting called to order at 6:30PM

Certificate of Compliance

- Whittemore Street: DEP#s197-268; 276; 298; 301 & 309

Tabled until required documents have been received

- Tracy Place; DEP3197-323

Tabled until required documents are received

Determination of Applicability

- 214 Rawson Street, continued (determine boundaries of resource area is accurate)

Josephine Aja Donahue, 212 Rawson Street concern was with the possibility of a house being built on that lot and how it will affect the wetlands and her property.

Mr. Parretti explained the applicant not requesting to build anything at this time. They were asking the Commission to agree on the wetland flagging and location of the wetlands. When they are ready to do something on the lot, it will require them to come back before Conservation with a new plan and abutters would be notified.

He was able to meet someone on site and tried to walk the site, but found it was impossible to determine anything or find any of the wetland flags because the growth was so thick.

Mr. Parretti recommended the Commission continue the RDA to the next meeting on August 17th and contact Art Allen of EcoTec Consultants to walk the site and determine where the wetlands are and confirm the flagging. All Agreed. Continued to August 17th

- Huntoon Memorial Highway Map 37/Parcel C2, continued (determine boundaries of resource area)

At this point, Mr. Brian Allen of Land Planning arrived. Mr. Parretti gave a review on what had taken place so far.

He then recommended continuing to the next meeting on August 17 and have Art Allen also walk this site to determine the wetlands and confirm the flagging. All Agreed. Continued to August 17th

Notice of Intent

- Paxton Street (Route 56) Road Upgrade (Town of Leicester Highway Dept)

Mr. Parretti read the notice into the record and then opened the meeting to discussion.

John Morgan and Jay Hall of CHA Consultants represented the application.

MassDOT and Town of Leicester Highway Department are proposing to rehabilitate the roadway surface along Paxton Street from Main Street to Hyland Ave. Improvements will include installing new signs and thermoplastic pavement markings at travel lanes/crosswalks; replace/repair/construct sections of the sidewalks and road widening to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians. Repair or replacement of portions of the existing underground storm drainage system, including sedimentation catch basins and roadside drainage swales. The proposed work will be conducted predominantly within the existing road footprint and adjacent road shoulders. No impacts to wetland resource areas; improvements will occur

within the 25-foot No Disturb Zone; and within the 100-foot buffer to a boarding vegetated wetland located east of the road. Mass Highway will run the project and was funded through the State's Transportation Improvement Program.

Riprap proposed along the banks of the intermittent stream; impacts to buffer zones of banks will occur predominantly within existing disturbed paved areas and adjacent road shoulders and disturbed areas will be returned predominantly to pre-existing conditions following construction.

Waiver requested from the 25-foot buffer to put in a detention basin, vegetated swale and rock area with riprap at the bank of the stream. The anticipated start of construction was spring 2017.

The Commission agreed approving the waiver request.

All agreed continuing to August 17th in order to set up a site inspection.

- LaFlash Boutilier Solar Farm, ZPT Energy Solutions, LLC

Mr. Parretti read the notice into the record and then opened the meeting to discussion.

Christopher Anderson of Hannigan Engineering represented the application.

They are proposing construction of a solar energy array system on approximately 39.05-acre parcel that sits on the southerly side of Boutilier Road. The site is currently a combination of woodland and brush. The project will involve tree clearing and regrading of the site to create an area to accommodate the installation of the solar array. There will be a gravel based access drive from Boutilier Road that will provide access to the solar arrays and proposed drainage infrastructure.

There will be no work within the 25 foot no disturb. Hay bales and silt fence installed near the work area around the wetlands. The areas not within the wetland buffer will have straw wattles and silt fence.

There will be no work done within the wetlands, no fill or replication proposed.

The wetland delineation remains as approved under a subdivision plan in 2009.

There will be two stormwater basins that will capture the water from each side of the project. Each basin will be equipped with a sub-drain system that can handle a major storm event to ensure the area remains dry. There will be a security fence around the entire project with an access gate.

A portion of asphalt removed will come from the area called Debbie Drive.

There was no work proposed within the 25-foot No Disturb Zone. Hay bales and silt fence be installed around the perimeter of work.

The Commission agreed too much time had passed since the original flagging and requested reflagging with an inspection.

DEP had not yet issued a number or submitted their comments.

Mr. Parretti reviewed previous comments received from DEP regarding solar farms and that DEP suggested, in regards to Stormwater Management, considering the solar arrays be impervious.

Mr. Anderson was aware and reviewed the Stormwater Management Plan.

Zigmas & Joanne Dabrila, 688 Stafford Street concerns were the status of Boutilier Road & the road built through to Stafford Street. Their property sits where Boutilier Road and Stafford Street meet.

Mr. Anderson said there were no plans with this project to build a road and that access will come from Henshaw Street.

All agreed continuing to August 17th in order to set up a reflagging site inspection.

Board Discussion

1) 35 Burncoat Lane – (Enforcement Order update)

Mr. Parretti did a site visit and was unable to determine where the property line was located. Some work was done there, but he could not determine on how that related to the property line issue. Ms. Karen Comeau, Burncoat Association explained their concern wanting to protect and preserve the beach and how the boundary line markers are constantly being covered over. The big rocks were removed from the beach property, but the silt fence was still on the beach property and there was a lot of debris on the beach side of the silt fence. Ms. Schold explained that as of July 6th, the Enforcement Order went into effect. The owner had been incurring a \$200 a day fine and will continue until the situation is rectified. The site is required to be brought back into compliance with their Orders, including the Enforcement Order and inspected, before a sign off from the Conservation Commission.

2) 1323 Main Street/Classic Collision Center –(possible wetland violation-site visit update)

Mr. Parretti inspected the site and determined work done was not near wetlands nor did it affect any wetlands on the site.

3) Chapel Street property w/ junk cars (Riverfront, DEP interpretation)

Areas previously Historic Mill Complexes can be exempted from Riverfront Act if still part of original complex footprint. Basically up to Conservation Commission to interpretation. DEP not strict on definition on reuse of mill properties. Junk cars can be stored on site until leaking starts. Junk cars are preferred to be stored on pavement to spot any leakage. A catch basin with emergency cover to capture any contaminants recommended. Any leakage of vehicles could initiate and involve a DEP emergency response.

4) Floating Docks (DEP interpretation)

Chapter 91 Waterway Permits regulate docks and only when docks are installed with permanent posts (impact land underwater) or if bank is being disturbed (regrading for dock installation). A water surface is not considered a resource area; the land underwater is the resource area. If no there is no land disturbance, it can be done without Conservation approval.

5) Waite Street Dam (site work inspection update)

No one available to attend the site meeting, an inquiry will be made to what happened.

6) 81 Waite Street (Enforcement Order update)

Mr. Soojian inspected the site and found the silt fence & erosion control was not adequate. He felt the silt fence needed to be put-in properly and cut it in to the ground to guarantee no silt runoff into the lake or abutting properties. The property owner will be notified.

7) Briarcliff Estates Wetland Re-flagging

A report received from Matthew Bassick, the developer, regarding Wetland Re-delineation. Art Allen of EcoTec conducted the evaluation for the applicant and did the re-flagging to portions of the wetland boundary that were in the vicinity of proposed construction.

The new flags consist of consecutively numbered blue ribbons. The new survey indicated a decrease in the wetland area from the original survey and delineation.

New Business

357-359 Main Street, Jeff Canane (Jan's Package Store) DEP interpretation on length of open application

MOTION: Ms. Schold moved to dismiss the Request for Determination of Applicability application, without prejudice, and make no decision due to lack of action. When the applicant is ready to move forward, he can do so with the same application.

SECONDED: Mr. Soojian – Discussion: None – VOTE: All in Favor

MOTION: Ms. Schold moved to adjourn

SECONDED: Mr. Soojian – Discussion: None – VOTE: All in Favor

Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Knox

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