

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Minutes of June 14, 2017

Members present: Steve Parretti, Chair; Jim Cooper, arriving at 6:34pm; JoAnn Schold, arriving at 6:47pm; Joshua Soojian, arriving at 6:43pm

Meeting called to order at 6:45PM

Request for Determination of Applicability

Wildwood Lane – relocate a shed

Mr. Parretti read the Notice into the record and then opened discussion to the applicant.

Mr. Glenn Krevosky of EBT Environmental representing applicant, in attendance.

Lori Wilkesman, property owner/applicant in attendance.

The applicant proposes to move an 11.5-foot by 28.1-foot structure (shed) 12-feet north of the southern property line, so it no longer encroaches on the neighbor's property. The move will put the structure closer to the wetlands, but will remain outside the wetland buffer.

MOTION: Mr. Soojian moved to grant a Negative Determination #3 to Dustin Brown of Wildwood Lane, Leicester, Ma for the purpose of relocating a shed. "Work described in the Request is within the buffer Zone, as defined in the regulations, but will not alter an Area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent, subject to the following conditions: 1) notify conservation before start of work for erosion control inspection; 2) notify Conservation when work is complete.

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

Request for Determination of Applicability

501-507 & 521 Stafford Street. ChV – install temporary stone filter

Mr. Parretti read the Notice into the record and then opened discussion to the applicant.

Mr. Brian MacEwen of Graz Engineering, in attendance.

A temporary stone filter check dam will be installed up-gradient of culvert pipe that discharges from the end of the swale to the street drainage system. Reshape & regrade swale by excavation & removal of soil. Extend main entrance cross culvert from its down-gradient end 40-feet to existing paved section of swale to control flows & mitigate existing overflows to adjacent parking areas.

There are no wetlands involved; this request is for cleaning out an existing drainage swale.

MOTION: Mr. Soojian moved to grant a Negative Determination #3 to Stafford Street Properties, LLC, 501-507 & 521 Stafford Street, Cherry Valley, MA for the purpose of a temporary stone filter check dam and cleaning up the existing drainage swale. "Work described in the Request is within the buffer Zone, as defined in the regulations, but will not alter an Area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent, subject to the following conditions: 1) notify conservation before start of work for erosion control inspection; 2) notify Conservation when work is complete.

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

Notice of Intent

Stiles Lake Water District – Aquatic Plant Management Program CONT

Ms. Amanda Mahaney of Solitude Lake Management, representing applicant, in attendance. This was continued because a DEP number had not been issued. The number has since been issued.

The Stiles Lake Water District would like to initiate an Aquatic Plant Management Program through the use of US DEP/MA DAR registered herbicides and algacides to manage non-native and nuisance vegetation.

Treatment will not be harmful to the fish or humans.

MOTION: Ms. Schold moved to approve the Notice of Intent for the Stiles Lake Water District to initiate an aquatic plant management program, with the following condition: 1) inform Conservation at the beginning of treatment and 2) inform Conservation when program was complete.

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

Notice of Intent

408 Stafford Street Solar- Solar Project; National Grid

Mr. Parretti read the Notice into the record, noting a DEP number had not been issued, therefore the hearing will need to be continued to the next meeting on July 12.

All agreed to proceed with application review.

Mr. Ryan Hale of Amec Massachusetts, Inc; Mr. Peter Esselstyn of Ameresco, Inc. and Mr. Tyler Krupa of National Grid in attendance.

The request is to construct a 1,361 kW ground-mounted solar energy system with portions being in buffer zone. The project will not have direct impacts to wetlands and won't impact the 25-foot No Disturb Zone.

It will be constructed on portions of a 45-acre parcel on the north side of Stafford Street near the City of Worcester & Town of Auburn. Temporary staging areas for construction equipment and materials will be located on existing cleared areas adjacent to an existing solar array. A perimeter security fence will be located a minimum of 25-feet from wetlands and the arrays will be a minimum of 40-feet from wetlands.

Nancy McCue, 406 Stafford Street had concern about the affect to her property and the filling of a stream that travels through the solar site and along her property.

Mr. Hale gave a brief review on the projects' layout, noting there were no plans to do any fill.

Hearing no further discussion, the hearing was continued to July 12, 2017.

Notice of Intent

85 Waite Street – reconstruct retaining wall

Mr. Parretti read the Notice into the record and opened discussion to the applicant.

Mr. Travis McCauley, property owner, in attendance.

The request was for reconstruction of an existing retaining wall.

All the existing lose stone will be removed and cinder blocks will be used to rebuild the wall in the existing location.

MOTION: Mr. Soojian move to approve the Notice of Intent to reconstruct the existing retaining wall, with the following conditions: 1) notify Conservation before the beginning of work for an erosion control inspection, and 2) inform Conservation when project was completed.

SECONDED: Ms. Schold – Discussion: None – VOTE: All in Favor

General Discussion

- Worcester Airport

Jim Stolecki, MassPort in attendance.

During recent heavy rain events, material from a dislodged beaver dam flowed down approximately 100-feet to a culvert inlet. The area is adjacent to the headwall where Lynde Brook flows under the runway at Worcester Airport. MassPort's Filed Maintenance crew accessed the location with an excavator to remove material, consisting primarily of wood debris from the culvert inlet.

Similar removal work had been done under an Order of Conditions, 197-0533, issued by the Conservation Commission in 2011, but had expired in 2014.

They are coordinating with the Leicester Board of Health to obtain a permit to remove the Beavers.

Mr. Stolecki asked whether a new NOI would be needed to address the beaver issues. DEP's comments were it being unrelated to their issues at that location and to continue working with the local Conservation Commission.

Mr. Soojian questioned whether the Order's applicable expiration date qualified under the Permit Extension Act. If it did qualify, the Order would only need to be amended.

Mr. Stolecki will look into that. He then gave a brief review update on the Runway Extension Project.

- 298 Clark Street - complaint

Christine Tretheway, 300 Clark Street in attendance.

There's concern with an area that was excavated & some trees were removed. This is a designated wetland, at 298 Clark Street. The excavation and tree removal has caused flooding and erosion issues at 300 Clark Street. There is also concern there may have been an area filled without a permit.

Mr. Marc Aurele, investigating this concern, was not present tonight. The Commission will contact Mr. Marc Aurele regarding the drainpipe and flooding concerns, and DEP to inquire about a site inspection to determine the filled area and advice on how to handle that.

- 63 Fairview Drive - DEP Appeal Update

A letter from Denise Child of MassDEP dated June 9, 2017, stated DEP completed its review on the Appeal submitted on March 31, 2017. Based on a review of information presented and discussed at the site meeting, it is the opinion of MassDEP that the Project can be conditioned to adequately protect the interest of the Wetlands Protection Act. Therefore, Superseding Order of Conditions was issued approving the Project, as proposed.

- Applications for Membership

Daniel George, 130 Green Street, Leicester; Matthew Preston, 3 Courtland Street, Worcester; and Suzanne Sears, 336 River Street, Leicester

Daniel George & Matthew Preston in attendance.

Upon introductions, the Commission suggested speaking with the Michelle Buck regarding the process going from a 5 member Commission to a 7 member Commission.

- Miscellaneous Projects, Site Inspections & Project Reports & Updates

1. New Forestry Cutting Plan. Location: Main Street & Reservoir Street; Landowner: William Union; Forester: Kimball Moore – DCR applied.
2. Building & Occupancy Permits issued, Month of April, 2017.
3. Monthly Status Report from Stafford Street/Wilson Street DEP#197-0541.
4. Weekly Progress Meeting Reports from Stiles Reservoir Dam Reconstruction.
5. Leicester Snowmobile Club/Moose Hill WMA update. Material purchased and planted as mitigation for violations committed at the Moose Hill WMA. The WMA now considers this matter closed.

Approval of Minutes

Tabled

MOTION: Mr. Soojian moved to adjourn meeting

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Knox

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