

Acton Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2020

3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Commissioners present: Terry Matiland, Amy Green, Zywia Chadzyska, Suzanne Flint

Absent: Jim Colman, Carolyn Kiely, Tim McKinnon

Natural Resources Director and recording secretary: Tom Tidman

Zoom Host: Fran Portante

3:00 Terry opened the meeting and read the Town of Acton's Remote Meeting disclaimer.

Regular Business:

3:05 Request for Determination: 1 Hayward Road

The work is the abandonment of an existing septic system and the installation of a new Title 5-compliant subsurface sewage disposal system. Work will be conducted within 100 feet of an isolated wetland pond.

Stephen Poole of Lakeview Engineering Associates representing the owner-applicants, presented the septic replacement plan.

There is an isolated wetland at the intersection of Hayward? and Main Street. The proposed septic system meets the 75 foot wetlands setback and has been approved by the Board of Health.

Decision: Amy moved to issue a Negative 3 Determination, meaning 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. Zywia seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.

3:15 Request for Determination: Commuter Rail, Vegetation Management Plan.

Keolis Commuter Services and Mass. Bay Transportation Authority for a review of the wetland maps along the railroad right-of-way within the town of Acton, as part of the renewal of the five-year Vegetation Management Plan.

The management plan was presented by Tim Dermody on behalf of the MBTA. The Keolis vegetation management plan is good for a period of 5 years. The Public can review existing vegetation management plans through the Keolis website. The purpose of filing the Request for Determination is essentially for the Conservation Commission to approve the wetlands boundaries as submitted. As in the past, the tracks on the plan are color coded, denoting "spray" and "no spray" areas within resource areas. Keolis has an Environmental Monitor overseeing all MBTA track spraying crews. Keolis employs an integrated vegetation management, with a significant amount of the work being done by weed whacking. All herbicides are listed in the Yearly Management Plan, and are regulated on a local, State and Federal basis. The Department of Agriculture routinely audits all firms doing vegetation management along the MBTA line.

The Commissioners asked to continue the meeting, in order to allow them to become more familiar with the methods employed. Tim Dermody agreed to lead a site walk for the Commission.

Terry announced that the meeting will be continued to September 16th, with a site walk set for a date and time prior to the 16th.

3:40 – Request for Determination – 8 Fernwood Road

Balvinder Vig, for a project at 8 Fernwood Road, (Town atlas plate G-3, parcel 210). The project is the construction of a 15 foot by 24 foot deck off the rear of the existing house.

The owner, Balvinder Vig presented plans to remove an existing porch and patio at the rear of his house and replace it with a 15' X 24' deck. The existing house is 21 feet from wetlands; the proposed deck will be 30' from wetlands at the nearest point. The deck will be constructed on an existing lawn area.

Zywia mentioned she had visited the site with Tom.

Decision: Amy moved to issue a Negative 3 Determination, meaning 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. Sue seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.

*** Request for Determination 6 Anthem Way**

Venkata Karthik Sharma Akkipeddi for a project at 6 Anthem Way. (town atlas plate H2, parcel 11-17). The proposed work is to top off several trees within 100 feet of wetlands for solar access.

The owner and applicant, Venkata Karthik Sharma Akkipeddi asked that the Commission take no action on his Request and asked that the meeting be continued to an as yet undetermined date and time.

4:00 Amy Green was called from the meeting at approximately 4:00, leaving only 3 commissioners. Lacking quorum, the hearing for 75 Spruce Street, (Gates and Douglas Schools project) was continued to September 2nd at 7:00 PM.

No further business was conducted and the meeting was adjourned at **4:05 PM**.



Terrance Maitland, Chair