

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
August 18, 2021
7:10 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Terry Maitland, Amy Green, Carolyn Kiely, Tim McKinnon
Absent: Zywia Chadzynska, Jim Colman
Natural Resources Director and recording secretary: Tom Tidman
Zoom Host: Fran Portante

Regular Business

7:10 PM – Chairman Terry Maitland read the virtual meeting protocol

Terry announced that the 7:10 pm Notice of Intent hearing for the Fletcher Court subdivision (Hawks Crest Reserve) is continued to September 1st at 7:30 PM.

7:15 PM Notice of Intent – 106 Stow Street,

Vito Colonna, with Connorstone Engineering Inc., presented the septic system replacement plan.

The Wetlands were flagged by Oxbow Associates in May 2021, and run from Stow Street to the back of the lot along the west side of the property. The 100 year floodplain bisects the lot following contour 198. Vito noted that the existing cesspool will be pumped and filled in place. A new leaching field utilizing an Elgen system will be installed; reducing the offset to groundwater and the amount of fill needed over the system. The leaching field will be located outside the 100 foot wetland buffer. The septic tank and pump chamber will be located within the 100 foot wetlands buffer. Abutter Patrick Hearn, 116 Stow Street, expressed his support for the efforts being made to improve 106 Stow Street.

The Chairman closed the hearing at 7:25 pm.

Decision: Amy moved to issue a standard OOC, Tim seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.

7:25 pm Notice of Intent – Taylor Road Sidewalk

Presenting for the Town of Acton was Bruce Ringwall with Goldsmith, Prest and Ringwall, Inc. Also present was Acton Town Engineer QinRui Pang.

Bruce noted that construction of a sidewalk along Taylor Road began in 2012. The section being presented tonight is for approximately 830 linear feet of sidewalk from the Conant Elementary School running west to Barker Road near Route 2. Construction of the sidewalk just to the west of the entrance to the Conant school will involve the temporary disturbance of 341 square feet of Bordering Vegetative Wetlands (BVW). A wall will be constructed between the sidewalk and the BVW along that section of the sidewalk. Construction of the 5' wide sidewalk shifts to the north side of Taylor Road at station 34-00 and runs behind several mature deciduous trees.

Construction follows the road shoulder where the sidewalk crosses Coles Brook, a perennial

stream, with approximately 300 linear feet of sidewalk installation within Riverfront area. Silt fence is proposed for all work within buffer zones.

A waiver request (dated 8/5/21) was submitted with the NOI, since much of the sidewalk installation is within the 50 foot natural buffer associated with the Town of Acton Wetlands Bylaw. In total 12,584 sq. ft. of buffer zone will be altered to install the sidewalk.

Abutter David Spector at 94 Taylor Road spoke in support of the proposed sidewalk.

The Chairman continued the hearing to September 1st at 7:15 pm, since no DEP file number had been received as yet..

7:50 pm Request for Determination – 16 Knox Trail

Peter Bay, with EDF Renewables, introduced the project to the Commission.

Also present was Greg Russo with TRC. Peter noted that this solar installation will generate 0.996 megawatts of photovoltaic energy, along with 0.5 MW of 4 hour battery storage on the Acton Water District property. The Wetlands were flagged by Greg Russo, with the design of the photovoltaic field staying out of the 200 foot buffer around the 3 onsite public water wells. A letter was received from NHESP verifying that no endangered species are located within the proposed work area. The perimeter fence will be raised to allow for turtle passage underneath. No solar panels will be located within resource areas. The Commission inquired about a mowing plan for areas outside the proposed fence location to control invasive species, specifically knotweed and autumn olive.

Riverfront impacts will be limited to improvements to the existing road entering the site from Knox Trail; which would be considered a “minor activity.” All work is confined to areas with previous disturbance. Peter Bay noted that this is considered a brownfield site. Plans include seeding the site with a grass mix and mowing two to three times per year. Native grasses will be used in the mix. There are no plans to create a pollinator meadow.

At 9:15 PM, the Chairman closed the meeting,

Decision: Any moved to issue a negative 3 Determination, meaning no Notice of Intent was required, with the following special condition, that the seed mix to be used in the photovoltaic field shall be reviewed by and approved by the Conservation Agent, and that the mowing areas and schedule be reviewed by the Conservation Agent. Carolyn seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.

8:20 pm Notice of Intent – 562 Main Street

Bruce Ringwall presented for the owner, Brewster Conant Jr.

The Commission had seen this septic system replacement application filed as an RDA earlier in the summer, but, because activity would occur within the Riverfront, a NOI was required. Bruce noted that only a small portion of the Riverfront Area on the property will be used for grading associated with the new leaching field, and that the altered riverfront area will return to a natural meadow state once work is completed. A Board of Health permit has been issued for this project.

Chairman Maitland closed the hearing at 8:35 pm.

Decision: Amy moved to issue a standard Order of Condition; Tim seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.

Minutes

Amy moved to approve the minutes of 6/30/21; Carolyn seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous

Amy moved to approve the minutes of 7/7/21, Carolyn seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous

Amy moved to approve the minutes of 7/21/21 Carolyn seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous

Certificate of Compliance 132 Stow Street, DEP file # 85-0416

Decision: Amy moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 132 Stow Street. Carolyn seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting:

Notice of Intent filing for 106 Stow Street

Notice of Intent for Taylor Road Sidewalk

Request for Determination for 16 Knox Trail Solar Installation

Notice of Intent for 562 Main Street

Request for Certificate of Compliance for 132 Stow Street

These documents may be found here: <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-13007>



Terrence Maitland, Chair