

**ACTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
October 15, 2014
7:15 PM
TOWN HALL - 472 MAIN STREET
ROOM 204**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Andrew Magee, William Froberg, Tom Arnold, Amy Green, Jim Colman, Theresa Portante-Lyle

Vice Chairman Andrew Magee chaired the meeting in the absence of Chairman Terry Maitland.

NATURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR & RECORDING SECRETARY: Tom Tidman

VISITORS: Paula Goodwin, Mr. & Mrs. Albert J. Lodi, Doug Smith (Soilsmith), Thom Kanwit, Pam Curran, Renee Brozyna, Sally Bond, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Beauregard, Mr. & Mrs. Eric Dauler, Mike Crowley, Rebecca Gurley, Mary Donald, David Roston & Betty Wood, Joan Yatteau, Sue Whitcomb

7:15 **Notice of Intent** – 12 Summer Street (020)

Notice of Intent filed by William D. Chisholm of Mount Laurel Realty for a project at 12 Summer St. Rear, Lot #2, town atlas plate G2, parcel 200. Proposed project is the construction of two single-family homes with a common driveway. A portion of one of the homes will be built within the buffer zone of Bordering Vegetative Wetlands.

Chair announced continuance to November 5 at 7:15 PM. The applicant and Conservation Department staff will contact Paul McManus to coordinate a site visit.

7:15 **Request for Determination:** 6 Minot Avenue (020)

Albert Lodi for the installation of a new septic system at 6 Minot Avenue, Acton (town atlas plate F-4, parcel 52). Work will occur within the buffer zone of bordering vegetated wetlands. The proposed work will be 51 feet from an intermittent stream and 75 feet from wetlands.

Mr. Lodi noted the condition of the soil to be sandy gravel. After meeting with the Board of Health, the location was set back and the proposed location is superior to the original location. BOH did not require any additional treatment.

Ms. Green discussed the possibility of moving one flag. Doug Smith, of Soilsmith Designs, said that he had done a boring in that area and felt the soil was not hydric. Mr. Froberg asked if that was an intermittent stream and the engineer said that it was. He also said the property was on town water and no well was on the site. Ms. Green, Mr. Arnold and Mr. Colman had visited the site. Ms. Green would like to see language in the determination indicating the determination has not been formally accepted.

Decision: Ms. Green moved to issue a Negative 3 determination, i.e. the project “will not alter an area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent.” Mr. Arnold seconded, unanimous vote.

7:30 **Notice of Intent:** 50 Seminole Road (030)

Richard Dolan, ABC Cesspool Co. Inc., for a septic system replacement. Project is located at 50 Seminole Road, Acton, town atlas plate E2, parcel 130. Work will occur within 100 feet of bordering vegetated wetlands.

Richard Dolan presented the project. The system is to be located in the front yard, since there are no other suitable locations. The plan has been approved by the BOH, and they required no additional treatment. Ms. Green, Mr. Arnold and Mr. Colman had visited the site.

Decision: Mr. Arnold moved to issue a standard order of conditions, Mr. Colman seconded, unanimous vote.

7:45 **Notice of Intent:** 2 Taylor Road, Arboretum Parking Lot (040)

NOI filed by the Department of Natural Resources of the Town of Acton, for a project at 2 Taylor Road, site of the Acton Arboretum (town atlas plate F-3A, parcel 76). The project entails the replacement and expansion of the existing parking lot and the replacement of the bog boardwalk. Project occurs within the buffer zone of bordering vegetated wetland.

Tom Tidman, Director of Natural Resources, and Bettina Abe, Natural Resources assistant, presented the two projects: 1. the Acton Arboretum parking lot expansion and renovation; and 2. the bog boardwalk renovation with accompanying paved sidewalk access ramp from Minot Ave. The Commissioners requested a storm water report for the parking lot construction and design and a planting plan for the rain garden. Mr. Tidman informed them that these were currently in process and would be forthcoming. Mr. Magee summarized the Commission's request for additional information as follows: a. add infiltration to the lower side of the existing drive; b. present a planting plan and cross section for the raingarden; c. address stormwater policy compliance; d. indicate where snow would be stored.

Mr. Magee opened the microphone to citizens' concerns, explaining that the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission at this hearing is the Wetlands Protection Act, not traffic or aesthetics outside of the purview of the WPA. Please see the list of attendees and abutters at tonight's meeting. Comments and questions were about how many parking spaces the new lot would accommodate; does it need to be blacktop rather than permeable pavement. There are two driveways directly across from the new parking lot entrance; #15 Taylor Road has experienced occasional flooding in his driveway and front yard and submitted photos. Others questioned if a second driveway entrance was needed and if traffic studies had been done. Bonnie Geithner (431 Main St.) suggested speed bumps in the new parking lot. Mr. Magee informed the abutters that the Commission has jurisdiction over the conservation land in Acton. Mr. Arnold requested Staff to indicate who the abutters could speak to about their concerns if not the Commission. Ms. Abe and Mr. Tidman suggested that neighbors could discuss concerns with the Planning Department, the Town Manager or the Engineer about traffic flow on Taylor Road.

Next the Commission discussed the bog boardwalk renovation and paved ramp from Minot Ave. Several citizens asked questions and Rebecca Gurley (26 Minot) expressed concerns about trees to be taken down and loss of animal habitat. Mr. Roston (24 Minot) and others commented: the fiberglass decking would be ugly, the pavement running along the edge of the bog would be of concern; and that this would be a "destination only" recreational amenity. Mary Donald (42 Taylor Rd) was concerned about the 18" drop if a wheelchair should fall over the edge. Staff explained that the building plans have been approved by the Building Inspector and is ADA accessible. There

were questions about the condition of the plants under the old boardwalk and how to protect and to feature the Northern Pitcher Plants growing in the bog. The Commissioners suggested installing a picnic table at the esker side of the bog. Staff reiterated that the project includes a bench on the new boardwalk and the bog itself is a very interesting place to visit. Plans include an educational panel to be installed along the accessible portion of trail. There was further discussion about the boardwalk being constructed in frozen conditions and what can be done to avoid construction impacts as well as discussion about the existing culvert near the existing stairs and if it needs to be adjusted

Mr. Magee summarized the Bog Boardwalk renovation and ramp discussion and asked that the following be provided: a. a planting plan for the slope associated with the ramp construction; b. a plan to control invasives in the area exposed after the removal of the old boardwalk; c. stake the location of the proposed ramp; d. provide a cross-section of the proposed ramp; e. provide the total area of the buffer zone impacted and the volume of fill need to construct the ramp; f. explain how the storm drain/culvert be dealt with.

Mr. Magee requested a continuance and informed the public that they would not receive a second notice for the follow up hearing on November 5, 2014 at 7:45 PM at Town Hall room 204.

Municipal Certification: Gaebel Municipal Certification request for Gaebel/6 Piper Road Rear Conservation Restriction (050) (documents on website for review) : postponed

Minutes:

Quail Ridge CR Subcommittee Meeting: September 16, 2014, reviewed by AM

Mr. Arnold moved to approve, Mr. Colman seconded, all in favor.

Conservation Commission Meeting: October 1, 2014, pending

Meeting adjourned: 9:45 PM



Terry Maitland
Chairperson

ACTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
AGENDA
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- 8:00 **Municipal Certification:** Gaebel Municipal Certification request for Gaebel/6 Piper Road Rear Conservation Restriction (050) **(postponed)**

MINUTES:

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Conservation Commission: October 1, 2014, pending

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Type	Title	Owner	Edited	Size	Actions
	010 - 12 Summer Street NOI 085-1148	naturaires	10/06/14	9 MB	
	010 - 12 Summer revised SH4 85-1148	naturaires	10/06/14	183 KB	
	011 - 12 Summer revised SH5 85-1148	naturaires	10/06/14	423 KB	
	012 - 12 Summer St. Additional Information 85-1148	naturaires	10/06/14	3 MB	
	020 - 6 Minot Ave RDA	naturaires	10/06/14	55 KB	
	021 - 6 Minot AVE Septic Plan	naturaires	10/06/14	1 MB	
	030 - 50 Seminole Rd NOI	naturaires	10/06/14	729 KB	
	031 - 50 Seminole Septic System	naturaires	10/06/14	261 KB	
	040 - 2 Taylor Road Arboretum NOI	naturaires	10/10/14	3 MB	
	042 - 2 Taylor Rd Rain Garden Plan	naturaires	10/10/14	261 KB	
	050 - Gaebel Municipal Certification	naturaires	10/06/14	68 KB	
	051 - 2014_10_3GaebelCR_FINAL	naturaires	10/06/14	779 KB	

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