

**ACTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
April 6, 2016  
7:15 PM  
TOWN HALL - 472 MAIN STREET  
ROOM 204**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Terry Maitland, William Froberg, Tom Arnold, Andrew Magee, Amy Green, Jim Colman, Paula Goodwin

**NATURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR & RECORDING SECRETARY:** Tom Tidman

**VISITORS:** Jonathan Markey, Russ Willson, Janet Adachi, Renee Soluk, Gene Crouch, Brent Richard, Robert Standley, Eileen York, Judy Kirongell, Phil Janis, Gail Janus

**7:20 Request for Determination of Applicability: 6 West Road**

Applicants Paul W. Mak & Deborah Riley for the replacement of a septic system. Part of the proposed leach field is within the 100 foot buffer zone.

Russ Wilson, of R. Wilson & Associates, Civil Engineers, presented for the applicants. The septic system is in failure and must be replaced. The new tank and pump chamber will be upgraded to a CulTec system. The proposed system has been approved by the Board of Health.

**Determination:** Mr. Magee moved to issue a Negative 3 determination, that is, the 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. Ms. Green seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**7:25 Request for Determination of Applicability: 363 Arlington Street**

Russell and Christine Doherty for the replacement of a failed septic system. The project is at 363 Arlington St., (town atlas plate F1, parcel 88) and work will occur within the wetland buffer zone.

Jonathan Markey, of Markey & Rubin Inc., presented for the applicants. He described a system in failure at a challenging site, with high ground water. The new system will replace the old system in the same location. A drip dispersal system is planned with a "jet" system. The dwelling is within zone 3 of the Ground Water Protection District. The BoH has already reviewed this plan and asked for a reduction in nitrogen. The original system was installed in the 1970's. This new system is very low profile.

**Determination:** Mr. Magee moved to issue a negative 3 determination, that is, the 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. Ms. Green seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**7:35 Notice of Intent: Water Chestnut Removal, Ice House Pond and Robbins Mill Pond.**

Town of Acton Natural Resources Department for the removal of water chestnut, a non-native invasive species, from two impoundments within the Nashoba Brook watershed: Ice House Pond, 120 Concord Rd, town atlas plate G4, parcel 27, and Robbins Mill Pond, 845 Main St., town atlas plate C5, parcel 51. Mechanical harvesting will occur during the summer months for a period of one week.

Tom Tidman, Conservation Agent and Natural Resources Director, presented the project. He updated the Commission on the success of the first year of mechanical harvesting of water chestnuts from Robbins Mill Pond and Ice House Pond. He mentioned that the Commission had requested, in 2015, that an NOI be filed prior to the harvesting operation in 2016. Bettina Abe, Natural Resources Assistant, presented a .ppt presentation that she had done for CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area), outlining the history of water chestnut removal over the past six years in Acton.

Tom mentioned that the Ecological Restoration, Limited Project filing required that Natural Heritage be notified, as wood turtles, a rare species, are found in the watershed. At this time, they had not responded to the notification. Therefore, the Commission agreed to continue the hearing until May 4<sup>th</sup>, by which time comments from Natural Heritage should have been received.

### **Hearing continued to May 4, 7:15 PM.**

#### **7:45 Notice of Intent: Arboretum Fern Boardwalk replacement.**

Town of Acton Natural Resources Department for the replacement of the Fern Boardwalk at the Acton Arboretum, 2 Taylor Road, Acton, town atlas plate F2A, parcel 76. Work will occur within 100 feet of wetlands.

Tom Tidman and Bettina Abe presented plans for the replacement of the existing fern boardwalk. The original boardwalk was constructed in the early '90's. The new boardwalk will be constructed on the same "footprint" as the original structure. A large multi-stemmed red maple will need to be removed near the boardwalk. When permitted, the boardwalk will be replaced this fall.

**Determination:** Mr. Magee moved to issue a Standard Order of Conditions with the following special conditions:

1. Should the methodology for boardwalk removal, as described in the Notice of Intent, change, the new boardwalk removal method must be approved by the Conservation Agent prior to the commencement of work.
2. This project is exempt from articles 17 and 18 of the Acton Bylaw.

Ms. Green seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

#### **8:00 Notice of Intent: Parker Street – Fort Pond Brook**

The Town of Acton Department of Engineering for the replacement of the Parker Street Bridge over Fort Pond Brook in Acton, near the intersection of Clover Hill Road and Parker Street. The proposed project will temporarily and permanently alter adjacent wetland resource areas.

Gene Crouch of VHB presented for the Town. The bridge on Parker Street that crosses Fort Pond Brook is being replaced with an open bottom box culvert. The replacement will be done in a phased manner. A by-pass channel will be created using steel-sheet piles and sandbags, to create a dry area under the current bridge. They will also use a sedimentation basin for the dewatering process. Additional riprap will be added on all four corners of the bridge. The bottom contour and sediment will be used to restore the stream bottom to a natural state. The project plan is to install a 17 foot wide box culvert, similar in dimension to the existing culvert. The culvert acts to control 100 year storm water and backwater, thus controlling down-stream flooding by not increasing the downstream flow. A wildlife passage cannot be added to the designed width for this particular project. The project will take approximately 3 months.

Phil Janus of Old Meadow Lane commented that he would like to see a weight-restricted bridge. Eileen York of 7 Brookside Circle asked if there would be mitigation for any mud or debris that flows downstream. Mr. Crouch said the contractor would remove any debris generated. They will attempt to complete the project this summer. Robert Stanley of Old Meadow Lane asked if a temporary water main will be installed during construction. Ms. Green asked if an Environmental Monitor would be hired to oversee the project and Mr. Crouch said there were no plans for such, but they have used environmental monitors on similar projects.

**Determination:** Ms. Green moved to issue a standard order of conditions with the following special conditions:

1. An Environmental Monitor will be on site to ensure that construction sequencing is followed during diversion stream excavation and at the completion of the box culvert (s) installation, when the diversion stream is taken off-line and back-filled. The Environmental Monitor will oversee all Bank stabilization.
2. The bottom of the diversion stream (Channel Bed) shall be stabilized with an approved substrate, prior to allowing water to pass through. The method and material used to stabilize the diversion stream-bed will be approved by the Environmental Monitor and the Conservation Agent prior to installation.
3. A pre-construction meeting with the Contractor, Conservation Agent and Environmental Monitor to review conditions set forth in this Order of Conditions is required prior to the commencement of work.

Mr. Magee seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**9:20 Notice of Intent: 117 Arlington Street: rehearing for public comment**

Mark Saganich for the construction of a single-family home addition, new in-ground swimming pool, and subsurface sewage disposal system at 117 Arlington Street, (*town atlas plate E2, parcel 233*). Portions of the work will occur within the 200 foot Riverfront Area and the 100 foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

David Cowell from Hancock Associates explained that, in the original filing, incorrect Abutter Notifications had been sent. Therefore, the filing was scheduled for the current meeting, and abutter notification resent with the April 6 hearing date.

**Determination:** Mr. Colman moved to reissue the Amended Order of Conditions, Mr. Magee seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**Meeting adjourned: 9:30**



Terry Maitland  
Chairperson

**ACTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
AGENDA  
April 20, 2016  
7:15 PM  
TOWN HALL - 472 MAIN STREET  
ROOM 204**

**7:15 Notice of Intent:** 127 Stow Street continuance

**7: 30 Notice of Intent:** 36 Mohegan Road

Notice of Intent filed by George Procter for the repair of a septic system on 36 Mohegan Road, (*town atlas plate D2, parcel 157*) located within the buffer zone of wetlands associated with Grassy Pond Brook.

**8:00 Notice of Intent:** 176 Central Street: was continued to this date; discussion??

**Minutes:**

March 16, 2016, reviewed by AM, AG

April 6, 2016, pending

Browser window showing a file list on the Acton, MA Official Website. The address bar shows <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collec> and the page title is "04-06-2016".

Type	Title	Owner	Edited	Size	Actions
	001 - Agenda 04-06-2016	naturalres	03/28/16	81 KB	
	010 - 6 West Rd RDA	naturalres	03/28/16	198 KB	
	011 - 6 West Rd RDA Plan	naturalres	03/28/16	637 KB	
	020 - 363 Arlington St RDA	naturalres	03/28/16	1 MB	
	021 - 363 Arlington Detail Sheet Stamped	naturalres	03/28/16	836 KB	
	022 - 363 Arlington St Site Plan Stamped	naturalres	03/28/16	1 MB	
	030 - Ice House_Robbins Mill Ponds NOI	naturalres	03/28/16	4 MB	
	031 - NOI Ice House Pond Appendix A	naturalres	03/28/16	4 MB	
	032 - Ice House Pond EnviroMonitor 3-24-2016	naturalres	03/28/16	38 KB	
	033 - NOI Ice House Pond Narrative	naturalres	03/28/16	616 KB	
	034 - ICE HOUSE POND photo 1999	naturalres	03/28/16	292 KB	
	035 - Ice House Pond Diagrams Photos	naturalres	03/28/16	2 MB	
	036 - ICE HOUSE POND BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOS	naturalres	03/28/16	1 MB	
	040 - 2 Taylor Rd NOI Fern Boardwalk-Culvert	naturalres	03/28/16	1 MB	
	041 - NOI Fern Boardwalk Project Narrative	naturalres	03/28/16	746 KB	
	050 - ParkerStreet Bridge NOI	naturalres	03/28/16	8 MB	
	051 - Parker St Bridge NOI Plans	naturalres	03/28/16	3 MB	

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