

**TOWN OF ACTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Minutes

April 19, 2017

7:15 PM

TOWN HALL - 472 MAIN STREET

ROOM 204

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Terry Maitland, William Froberg, Amy Green, Jim Colman, Tim McKinnon

NATURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR & RECORDING SECRETARY: Tom Tidman

VISITORS: Debra Simes, Hannah Raddatz, Jim Snyder-Grant, Scott Hayes, Gary Poisson

7:15 Request for Determination: Arlington and Newtown Gas Line Upgrade Boston Gas Company for a project to upgrade the existing gas line running along Arlington Street and Newtown Road as well as abandoning the 60 psig regulator in Arlington St. Portions of the proposed work is within the 100 foot wetland buffer zone and the 200 foot riverfront area of Grassy Pond Brook.

Hanna Raddatz, wetlands expert from Coneco, the engineering firm representing Boston Gas Company presented the project to the Commission. She pointed out that the project is being filed under the town bylaw, since utility projects such as this are exempt under the State of Ma. WPA. Work will occur along Newtown Road and Arlington Street. They will be installing 2800 linear feet of 4 inch plastic pipe along this way. Straw wattles will be installed near resource areas, and silt sacks will be installed within all detention basins. All work will occur within paved surfaces. This is a new line installation. Trenches will be backfilled at the end of each day.

The meeting was opened to public questions and input. Debra Simes asked why they were bumping up the pipeline from 2 inch carbon steel to 4 inch plastic. Is there a need, such as greater pressure going through the line? Jim Snyder-Grant commented that leaks, when they occur in Acton, tend to be large. However, if they are replacing faulty gas lines, that is regarded as a good thing. There were approximately 160 leaks in Acton, as reported in 2016. There are some very old leaks.

Mr. Froberg asked what other permits are required beside Wetlands Protection. Paul Campbell noted that any new installation must go before the BoS for review and approval.

Mr. Snyder-Grant commented that Green Acton's presence at the meeting was to raise awareness and to educate new homeowners to the fact that other sources of home heating are available.

Decision:

Mr. McKinnon moved to issue a negative 3 determination, that is, 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. Mr. Colman seconded the motion, Mr. Froberg abstained, and it passed with a majority.

7:30 Request for Determination: Town of Acton Road Repaving

Corey York, Town of Acton Director of Public Works, for repaving of a number of streets in Acton. These include all or portions of Marion Rd, Windemere Rd., Woodchester Rd., Beverly Rd., Flint Rd., Kelly Rd., Nadine Rd., Doris Rd., Francine Rd., Spruce St., Central St., Alcott St., Lexington Rd., Agawam Rd., Hosmer St., Russell Rd., School St., Main St. Some work will occur within the 200 foot Riverfront area and within the 100 foot wetland buffer zone.

Paul Campbell, Town of Acton Engineer, presented the project. As part of its routine maintenance, the Town will be resurfacing a number of roadways this spring and summer. The streets are listed in the RDA filing. Some areas are within the 200 foot Riverfront area and some are within the 100 foot buffer zone. All new paving will remain within the existing width of the paved surface, and no extension of width will occur. Hay wattles will be added in all resource areas and buffer zones.

Decision:

Mr. Froberg moved to issue a negative 3 determination (see Arlington and Newtown determination, above). Ms. Green seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

7:45 Request for Determination: 22 Washington Drive

James Ryan for a project at 22 Washington Drive, (*town atlas plate E3, parcel 87-49*). The project is the conversion of an existing screened porch to finished space, and a new wood landing. Work will occur within the wetland buffer zone

Gary Poisson, Mr. Ryan's neighbor, presented for the applicant, since the Ryans were currently living in Germany. The existing three season porch is being renovated to become year round living space. The foundation will remain the same, but new steps will be added to access the porch. The new steps are not to be in greater non-compliance that the existing foundation. At their nearest point, the new steps accessing the porch will be 36 feet from wetlands. The existing porch is 34 feet from wetlands.

Decision:

Mr. Froberg moved to issue a negative 3 determination (see Arlington and Newtown determination above) with one special condition:

The woodlanding and the cantilever structure are not included in this determination and approval. Ms. Green seconded the motion. There was one abstention. The motion passed with a majority.

8:10 Request for Determination: 148 Great Road

Scott Hayes of Foresite Engineering, presented for the applicant, Acton-Concord Chabad. The applicant would like to construct an addition to the back of the house. They are abutting a portion of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, currently under construction. The proposed addition will be within existing lawn and will be raised on sono-tubes, not a poured foundation. Mr. Froberg noted that the applicant had provided no details on the construction of the foundation. Ms. Green noted that there were wetland flags on the Great Road side of the rail trail.

Acknowledging these and several open questions, Mr. Maitland asked Mr. Hayes if he would be willing to continue the meeting to the May 3rd Conservation Commission meeting. Mr. Hayes accepted and Mr. Maitland announced that this meeting would be continued to May 3rd at 7:15 PM. The Commissioners agreed to visit the site prior to the May 3rd meeting.

Continued to May 3rd at 7:15 PM.

8:15 “Like Structures”: The Commission made two clarifications to the February 15, 2017 draft and then asked Tom Tidman to distribute the revised draft to a few consultants who appear before the Commission fairly regularly for their review/comment as to clarity and content.

Extension Permit for Orders of Condition: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail 85-1149

Decision: Ms. Green moved to approve and issue the Extension Permit, Mr. Colman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes:

April 5, 2017: Pending

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.



Terry Maitland
Chairperson

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
AGENDA
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8:00 Request for Determination: 148 Great Road, continued

8:15 "Like Structures": continuation of discussion

Extention Permit for Orders of Condition: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail 85-1149

Minutes:

April 5, 2017: Pending

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