



MEETING MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Monday; February 14, 2022
6:30 P.M.

Remote via Zoom Video Communications

Present: Marshall Dennis (MD) Absent: N/A
 Christopher Picone (CP)
 Kristin Godfrey (KG)
 Andrew Henderson (AH)
 Anne O'Connor (AOC)
 Catherine Laramie (CL)

Public Meetings/Hearings:

6:30 PM – **Notice of Intent (NOI) - 471 Winchendon Road (Map 4, Parcel 2).** Continuation of the public hearing regarding the replacement of an existing septic system was requested by the project engineer since a DEP File # had yet to be issued. The request was approved and the hearing continued to February 28th @6:30 PM.

MD motioned to continue to February 28, 2022 @6:30 PM.
KG seconded.
Approved 6-0.

6:35 PM – **Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) – 12 Hilltop Road (Map 25, Parcel 1G).** The RDA, filed by Platinum Development, LLC is for the construction of a driveway and installation of a subsurface sewage disposal system, portions of which are located within the 100-foot buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

Mark Popham (MP) was present to represent the applicant.

Per MP, the wetland is across the street from an existing gravel road. Within the wetland buffer zone, approximately 800 square feet of disturbance is proposed, all of which is greater than 50 feet from wetland edge. Most of the work, in fact, is beyond the 100-foot wetland buffer.

MD motioned to close the public hearing.
KG seconded.
Approved 6-0.

MD motioned to issue a negative Determination of Applicability (DA), per plan and discussion.
KG seconded.
Approved 6-0.

6:45 PM – **Notice of Intent – 38 Lower Lake Road (Map 50, Parcel 10)**. The NOI, filed by Albert Beinor, is for the seasonal installation of a removable dock and bank stabilization.

Al Beinor (AB) attended.

AB stated that he had submitted the NOI to the DEP, but that a file # has yet to be assigned.

MD noted that the proposed dock seems consistent with neighboring docks.

AB assured the Commission that the dock would be removable to avoid ice damage.

AB submitted and reviewed images of conceptual bank stabilization techniques using field stones and coir logs.

MD stated that rock placement was an ‘overkill’ approach to bank stabilization and that the staking coir logs, if anything, seemed sufficient. He added that, per Google Earth images, shoreline conditions have not changed noticeably in many years.

KG noted that coir logs with vegetation would grow in quickly, so rocks do not really seem necessary. CP stated he had no problems with the rocks as proposed, since they would be sparsely placed (unlike riprap), and would be consistent with the interests of the Wetlands Protection Act.

AOC asked whether the rocks would help provide more permanent stabilization than the coir logs, which will decompose after a few years, and suggested that maybe a few rocks to supplement the coir logs would suffice.

AH asked about setting the coir log out a little farther from the bank to allow sunlight on the plants planted within the coir logs.

MD restated his opinion that the L-component of the dock should serve as a wave buffer, reducing the need for stabilization. The coir log on the undercut also would prevent the need for any hardscape. AH noted that the dock is on legs, so water and waves move under it.

MD noted that the site is in a recessed area of the lake, with minimal wave action. AB countered that the wind from the east/northeast hits this shore across the lake.

MD motioned to continue to February 28th @ 6:45 PM.

KG seconded.

Approved 6-0.

Guest & Visitors

None scheduled

Other Commission Business/Administration:

- Approved the Minutes of January 24, 2022. Approved 5-0 (CL abstained).
- The Commission has received complaints (with photos) from a resident living near Roy Bros in South Ashburnham. Trucks are being washed adjacent to the Whitman River, and some appear to be leaking gas/oil into buckets. MD conducted a site visit. MD suggested that he submit a letter to the company, stating that any wash water from the trucks that enters the river is in violation of the WPA.

- Right of First Refusal: Holt Road. The Planning Board approved a 2-lot ANR subdivision for the @6.9 acre parcel. Per MD's review of site constraints, however, the building envelope associated with the easterly lot only is about 110' x 110' (or +/- 0.27 acres), since most of lot is in the Riverfront Area (a wetland resource area subject to protection) and State-designated rare species habitat.
- Extra! Extra! Read all about it! For the first time in many years, the Commission now consists of 6 members, with the recent addition of Catherine Laramie, whose membership is much appreciated.
- Lastly, MD reminded the Commission that he will be "retiring" from the Commission and potentially other municipal appointments at the end of this fiscal year.

Meeting adjourned 7:46 PM.