

Town of Hardwick
Conservation Commission
October 20, 2021; In-Person Meeting in Selectmen's Meeting Room
APPROVED MINUTES

RECEIVED

NOV 22 2021

TOWN CLERK

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Bill Zinni, Chair Becky Bottomley, Vice Chair David Larson Peggy Baxter, Clerk

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Nick Paydos

Also Present: Jay Gadoury William Van Arsdell Steven Pikul Wendy Howes

Call to Order: by Chairman, Bill Zinni at 6:34 pm

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	Next Action/ Responsible Party
Request for Certificate of Compliance DEP File # 176-0151	<p>Will Van Arsdell submitted a Request for Certificate of Compliance for work completed pursuant to the Order of Conditions for DEP File # 176-0151, recorded at the Registry of Deeds on March 15, 2019. Work was done by surveyors, engineers, landscapers and gardeners. Bill Zinni and Becky Bottomley conducted a site visit on October 1, 2021. Don Frydryk of Frydryk and Sherman did a site visit on October 14, 2021 and submitted a letter stating that the work completed was in substantial compliance with the plans submitted with the Notice of Intent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The barn is approximately 1/3 smaller than indicated on the approved plan.• The driveway is wider for safety: a narrow, steep driveway would have been unsafe. The driveway as built complies with Town of Hardwick Highway Department requirements.• Additional work was done on the south side to minimize erosion and run-off toward regulated areas. A surfaced area with gravel around the perimeter was installed to handle run-off from the roof.• Well was installed as shown on design plans.• Limit of Work markers, made of pressure-treated wood, were installed.• The changes had no significant impact of the intent of the project. <p>Photographs and a brief video showed these features, as well as a guardrail for safety and the native plantings that are growing in well.</p> <p>Action: It was moved, seconded and agreed upon by the 3 voting members present to grant the Certificate of Compliance. Mr. Van Arsdell will have the Certificate recorded at the Registry of Deeds. The discussion was closed at 7:05 pm.</p>	<p>The Certificate of Compliance was completed and given to Mr. Van Arsdell, with a copy made for the ConCom files. Peggy to inform DEP that CoC was issued on this date.</p>
NOI 176-0163 Clapp Rd., Lot 3A	<p>The hearing was continued at 7:06 pm. The Applicant, Jay Gadoury was present.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ConCom agreed to permit the driveway through the buffer zone so that it is not by the neighbor's wall. <p>Order of Conditions: These conditions will be adhered to in the construction phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Erosion control measures – straw wattles and silt fencing – will be implemented as noted on the plan	

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DEP # 176-0163 (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed clearing limits as illustrated on the plan shall be followed. <p>Mr. Gadoury requested that the Chair sign the large-scale plan. Action: The Public Hearing was closed at 7:10 pm.</p>	Peggy to prepare Order of Conditions; to be ready by Tuesday, Oct. 26 th
Restoration Plan for Lot 2 North Road property	<p>The ConCom thanked Mr. Gadoury for submitting the Restoration Plan, prepared by Scott Jordan, PE, of EcoTec, dated 10/7/2021. At the previous meeting (9/15/2021) Mr. Gadoury agreed to the terms set by the ConCom in the Enforcement Order that was issued to him, to have the restoration plantings completed by November 15, 2021. At this meeting, he stated that he will be hiring someone to start in the spring of 2022 (April 15 through June) or fall of 2022 (September through Nov. 1). He stated he cannot get the work done properly by November 15th.</p> <p>The ConCom asked him to comply with date set in the Enforcement Order. ConCom also asked who will be doing the planting. Mr. Gadoury stated it will be someone who was recommended by Jason Gerulaitis; the work will be monitored and inspected; and Scott Jordan of EcoTec will supervise, but that it cannot happen by November 15th.</p> <p>Action: It was moved, seconded and agreed upon by the 3 voting members present to accept the Restoration Plan presented in the Wetland Replication Protocol prepared by Scott Jordan of EcoTec.</p> <p>Further Discussion: ConCom will contact Scott Jordan and Mark Stinson regarding compliance with the Enforcement Order.</p> <p>The discussion was concluded at 7:26 pm.</p>	<p>RECEIVED</p> <p>NOV 22 2021</p> <p>TOWN CLERK</p>
DEP # 176-0154 Solar Projects Old Greenwich Plains Rd.; and Dep # 176-0153, Off Collins Rd/ Osborn Rd (Ware)	<p>Old Greenwich Plains Road: The hearing was continued from the previous meeting at 7:28 pm. Steve Pikul of Bertin Engineering showed revised plans, dated 9/28/2021, showing latest proposed footprint of the solar field. He noted that the reduced spacing has achieved the goal of no encroachments into the 100' buffer zones.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wendy Howes asked about plantings for screening, as existing vegetation is sparse. Bertin is still in discussion with the Planning Board re: screening along the road; arbor vitae species will be used. Swamp white oak was noted on plan; ConCom feels conifers would be preferable. Existing entrance to be used as maintenance road for mowing, etc.; some grading planned for that area. ConCom not as concerned with grading as they are with clearing and tree-topping/pruning. Size of western array of panels reduced due to ledge. Reduced encroachment into buffer zone helps ConCom with their deliberations. ConCom wants what had been cleared by the property owner in the buffer zones to be allowed to revegetate. Noted that cleared area at edge of "tree line" on plan actually has no trees. Mr. Pikul stated area will revegetate naturally as there are no plans to encroach into buffer zone Presentation to Planning Board on 10/26, 7 pm. Plans still 	

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DEP # 176-0154 and 176-0153 (cont.)	<p>evolving concerning terrain, soils, ledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ConCom noted improvements made. revegetating understory. Wetland delineation done accurately and noted accurately on plan. • Peer Review site visit planned for 10/22. • Bertin Engineering responses to Peer Reviewer (BSC Group) comments: ConCom expected these to come from EcoTec. Mr. Pikul noted that Arthur Allen of EcoTec did contribute to the comments, labelled as AA. • Copy of Change Order for BSC Group given to Mr. Pikul. <p>Off Collins Road/ Osborne Road (Ware): Mr. Pikul reported panels have been upsized, spacing reduced. A loop road was requested but would not accommodate large safety vehicles. BSC Group had questions regarding western encroachments. Updated plans have just been finished; re-engineered for hydrology.</p> <p>Action: With consent of the applicant, and by vote of the 3 members present, the hearing for these two projects was adjourned at 8:46 pm and continued to the next meeting, November 17, 2021, at 6:30 pm.</p>	<p>RECEIVED NOV 22 TOWN CLERK</p>
Inquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keith McNamara – requested information on Jay Gadoury's property on North Road • Kevin Graves sent email inquiry about 480 Ridge Road. ConCom has talked with other potential buyers of this property. They have been invited to November meeting; will get back to them to find out what their questions are. 	
Site Visit	On Oct. 1, 2021, a site visit was conducted by B. Zinni and B. Bottomley with RJ McDonald and Garrett McDonald, following a Violation Notice sent to RJ McDonald. RJ McDonald agreed to create a retention pond and catch basin to protect the culvert and land across the road. The neighbor, Robert Keelips, was informed of this meeting; Bill will let him know about the retention pond. Becky will speak to Will Keelips about option to clean out hedgerow ditch to make a swale to alleviate flooding on their side of the road.	
Financial Report	Peggy explained the difference in the WPA Fund balance since the last meeting. She was able to "catch up" with entering all debits and credits. The Zoom Account subscription has been paid for another month (\$15.93). Bill will be reimbursed for this amount.	
Minutes of Previous Meetings	The 3 voting members approved the September Minutes as corrected.	Peggy to make corrections; give copy to Town Clerk
Adjournment	By consent of the 3 voting members present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.	
Next Meeting	November 17, 2021, at 6:30 pm in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Municipal Office Building.	

Respectfully submitted, Marguerite L. Baxter Marguerite L. Baxter, Clerk