

**Conservation Commission Meeting
February 14, 2018
Town Room, Amherst Town Hall**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. Angus at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Angus, Allen, Clark, Butler, Fair, Brooks

Staff: Willson

CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS

Willson stated the three University Dr. NOIs are not coming tonight and have asked for continuances. They are revising the plans for the site, changing the three two story apt buildings to one four story building. They have asked to come back to our March 14th meeting, so not coming to our second February mtg. The revised stormwater report will have to be reviewed by our peer reviewer and Town Engineer. The restaurant side of the project is staying the same. Willson stated Fair needs to review the minutes for the two University Dr. presentations we've already heard. Fair agrees, Willson will either email the written up minutes or share the recordings with Fair. Angus suggested Willson send the Mullin's Rule language to Fair also.

Willson presented the Epstein aquisition project to CPAC. The three Open Space projects in 2018 are Epstein, due diligence, and dog park and all were funded! Willson added we asked for \$113K for Epstein which will be combined with a \$194K LAND Grant to buy the property. The dog park folks got \$90K split between Open Space and Recreation. Due diligence funding was \$15K.

Willson presented photos of Markert's Pond, the water level is high which is great. Staff sealed the gaps between the boards in the outflow structure which has helped to hold back the water. The outflow structure is working and the outflow stream looks healthy. We'll see what happens next summer. Angus, Brooks, & Willson will start their review of the wetland bylaw & regs tomorrow. They will periodically report back to the Commission throughout that process. The Conservation Dept. is submitting a grant application to the DCR Trails Grant Program for funds to fix the National Guard Bridge along the Harvey Allen trail. Butler asked when the Amethyst Brook bridge would get repaired. Willson said staff will submitting an NOI for that work soon, work should happen this summer.

MINUTES

Review minutes of 10-18-17.

Clark moved and Brooks seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-1, Fair abstained) to approve the minutes of 10-18-17.

PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS

7:10 PM Event on Conservation Land – Kinuyo Kanamaru/Amherst College for sediment sampling at Puffer’s Pond.

Kinuyo Kanamaru, professor from Amherst College, is requesting to take her lab students to Puffer’s Pond and collect sediment samples. She did come before the Commission before for this, they weren’t successful the year before in collecting a good core sediment sample so she couldn’t report the results to the Commission. They would try to sample closer to the middle of the pond this time and be successful. Angus said the Town and Commission are discussing dredging the pond because sections are definitely filling in. Willson asked if they were sampling in February, with the ice melting it might not be safe. Kanamaru said she would check it out this Sunday and try augering through the ice. Willson said we watch the ponds for thickness, you need to call Cons Dept and check if its OK to go out.

Brooks moved and Butler seconded. Commission VOTED (6-0-0) to approve the sediment sampling, however, confirm with Cons Dept on thickness of ice before going out,

7:15 PM Notice of Intent (cont’d from 1-24-18 mtg) – Thomas Poor, Rolling Hill Properties, LLC for construction of a single family house and associated driveway and landscaping within buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands at 214 Pomeroy Ln (Map 20C, Parcel 23).

Mike Liu, Berkshire Design Group, stated they added a stone trench along the southern side of the driveway to infiltrate and treat the runoff. If it overflows the water will sheet flow through the vegetation before getting to the wetland so will get some more treatment and infiltration opportunity. They added a stone filter dam to the north side of the driveway, but don’t like it and are asking if Commission wants to keep it or not. No need to filter clean runoff. They added a coarser layer under the driveway for drainage to flow under the driveway better. Brooks said the idea was to keep some of the water off the driveway. Lui suggests changing the dam to a stone filter trench along the northside of the driveway.

They also propose adding split rail fence along the wetland near the road. They added permanent markers along the 50’ buffer zone line near the house and garage.

Clark moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-1, Fair abstained) to close the public hearing and issue the order of conditions with special conditions: change filter dam to filter trench and extend it to elevation 203 mirror with southern trench, no chemical fertilizers/herbicides/pesticides on lawn, no salt on driveway, permanent markers (boulders) at 50’ setback line near house & garage, and submit revised plan to Wetlands Administrator.

8:15 PM Notice of Intent – Albert Storey for stabilization of an eroding embankment within buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands at 1101 Southeast St. (Map 23B, Parcel 5).

Tom Benjamin, landscape architect, working for the homeowner. He introduced Bert & Rebecca Storey, the property owners. Project is a landscaping project on south side of house on a steep slope that has slowly been eroding over the years. The slope abuts Conservation Land (Longly Swamp) on the south side. It’s about 12 ft from the SW corner of their house to the top of slope. Project mainly to stabilize the slope which grades down to a wetland. First work done was to redirect roof drainage to the western side of the house instead of southern where it was eroding the slope. Proposing to revegetate the slope, stop mowing the top portion, and use coir logs to stabilize soil for plant growth. The work is within the 30’

setback from the wetland closest point is 2-3' from wetland line, erosion control will be used. The total area of work is about 2,200 square feet with most work within 400 square foot area. Using a combination of live stake cuttings, containerized shrubs and herbaceous wildflowers. He provided a plant list. He stated they will also be removing invasives. There is a three year monitoring plan. He did soil testing, perc testing and delineated the wetlands. They are proposing a rain garden for the roof drainage to the west of the house. Willson asked what the schedule is for the work. Benjamin said they would like to do the majority of the work in April.

Brooks moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED (6-0-0) to close the public hearing and issue the Order of Conditions with standard conditions.

Miscellaneous Untimed Items:

- Certificate of Compliance – 57 Oak Knoll

Willson stated the NOI was for constructing a pond in 1990. The property is being sold and they need the Order off their deed. Fair, Allen, and Willson looked at the property that morning. They found the dike and outflow structure, the pond looked healthy. There was vegetation observed on the dike which was compromising the dike, some leakage was observed. Iron was observed (orange) in the water coming out of the outflow pipe, which was an iron pipe. Requirements of Order have been met, realtor should let new homeowners know about compromised dike.

Brooks moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (6-0-0) to issue the Certificate of Compliance.

- NOI Ch 61 Withdrawal – W.D. Cows, Inc. – Shutesbury Rd.

Willson stated the well for a house on Shutesbury Rd was found to actually be located on the abutters land (WD Cows). The abutter has agreed to carve out a piece of their property and give it to the well owners but the land is in chapter so must come out of chapter.

Brooks moved and Butler seconded. Commission VOTED (6-0-0) to recommend to the Select Board to not use their right of first refusal to purchase the property.

Adjournment

Voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 8:40 PM.