

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Members: John Gerber (acting Chair), Harvey Allen, Ellie Manire-Gatti, Otto Stein
Staff: Libby Lass
Public: Pete Westover

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mr. Gerber at 7:06 p.m.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S ACTION

Approve Minutes

VOTED unanimously (4-0), to approve, as amended, the Conservation Commission minutes of July 25, 2007.

PERMITS/CERTIFICATES

Notice of Intent – NOI 06-1042 : Haskins View, LLC (cont'd from 7/26/06) – for construction of a 27 lot subdivision partially within the buffer zone of bordering vegetated wetlands and within the riverfront resource area located on East Leverett Road (Map 3A, parcels 20, 80 & Map 3B, parcel 78).

- Opened the public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

VOTED unanimously (4-0), to continue the public hearing (no date, no time)

Request for Determination – RFD 07-1093: Amherst College Trustees – for replacement of bog bridges and the placement of new bog bridges in the buffer zone of bordering vegetated wetlands in the wooded Amherst College “Wildlife Sanctuary” property (Map 14D, Parcel 1 & 2).

- Opened the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

Pete Westover presented for the applicant, indicating on the photos submitted the areas where the bridges are to be either replaced or repaired.

VOTED unanimously (4-0), to close the public hearing and to issue a negative determination for the work, with the understanding that those sections that will require an NOI will come before the Conservation Commission at a later date.

Request for Determination – RFD 07-1092: Sabrina Realty, Ltd. - for tree and brush clearing and planting of black walnuts in the buffer zone of bordering vegetated wetlands off Old Farm Road (Map 18C, Parcel 49-66).

- Opened the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 8:07 p.m.

Pete Westover presented for the applicant, indicating on the plans submitted the areas where the black walnut trees would be planted. Ms. Manire-Gatti questioned the use of herbicides to control growth of weeds. Mr. Westover indicated that the spraying would be done on a windless day using a handheld spray wand to keep the herbicide from drifting to other areas. There was discussion regarding protecting wildlife during the initial clearing of the property and subsequent mowing. Mr. Westover indicated that mowing would not be done in June, but would be done in late August or early September, as that time of year would have the least impact on wildlife (nesting turtles being of concern).

VOTED unanimously (4-0), to close the public hearing and to issue a negative determination for the work with the addition of the following conditions:

1. Approve the wetland delineation as depicted.
2. Permanent markers shall be installed along the 15' limit of work/no disturb boundary.
3. The initial boundary cutting shall be supervised by a qualified environmental scientist
4. If needed, a cover crop shall be seeded by September 15 of the year the cutting is done.
5. The limit of work – 15' from the wetland boundary -shall have permanent markers installed
6. Herbicide spraying shall only be allowed on windless days
7. The applicant shall preserve the oak tree on the southern boundary
8. All subsequent cutting shall be no less than 12 inches and shall occur in late summer (expressly prohibited in June)
9. Vegetation in open areas shall be maintained so as to remain open

Notice of Intent – NOI 06-1042: Hampshire College – Veridian Village (hearing continued from 6/13/07) - for construction of a “Lifelong Learning Community” consisting of 57 two-story town-homes with attached garages, 72 flats over first floor parking within 3 multi-story buildings, a community building, a private loop roadway and several cul-de-sacs; all supported by utility infrastructure and site grading.

- Opened the public hearing at 8:13 p.m.

VOTED unanimously (4-0), to continue the public to August 22, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

Request for Determination – RFD 07-1090: Amherst DPW (hearing continued from 7/25/07) - for drainage replacement in the buffer zones to the bank resource area and pond (Town of Amherst Bylaw) located at 37 Western Lane (Map 19C parcels 186 and 4).

- Opened the public hearing at 8:14 p.m.

VOTED unanimously (4-0), to continue the public hearing to August 22, 2007 at 7:40 p.m.

Notice of Intent – NOI 07-1089 – Christopher Bloom on behalf of Sotorios Anamisis (hearing continued from 7/25/07) - for re-grading and paving in the buffer zone of bordering vegetated wetlands located at 55 University Drive (Map 13B, parcel 21).

- Opened the public hearing at 8:15 p.m.

VOTED unanimously (4-0), to continue the public hearing at the applicant's request to August 22, 2007 at 7:50 p.m.

Request for an Extension of the Order of Conditions - Woodland Nominee Trust (NOI 04-0910) for trail re-location on Leverett Road

VOTED unanimously (4-0), to approve a one year extension of the Order of Conditions to August 24, 2008.

MISCELLANEOUS

Scott Nielsen sent an email to the Department and John Gerber to let them know that he will be mowing his property on South East Street, avoiding the areas delineated as wetlands on their most recently submitted plans. He also extended his permission to the Commission to mow the path that has been used in the past to reach conservation land.

Otto Stein had questions about mowing being done at the building on the corner of Pomeroy and West Street. John Gerber indicated that it was indeed a condition that no mowing be done and that he would bring it to the Wetland Administrator's attention.

Mr. Stein also noted that since the Commission is requiring the use of straw in place of hay bales, he feels that it should be set as a policy and so noted to applicants at the time they request an application. Mr. Gerber said that Stephanie should be consulted as to whether this is already a policy and, if not, should the Commission should adopt it as such. He also wanted to consult with Ms. Ciccarello on the 10% street sweeping.

Mr. Stein had questions about using HydroCad to calculate peak runoff rates and referenced a letter from hwmooore Associates, dated July 10, 2007 regarding Veridian Village at Hampshire College and addressed to Jason Skeels, Town Engineer that questioned the degree of accuracy of this method. Mr. Stein feels that there is a possible need for more accurate techniques of estimation.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED unanimously (4-0), to adjourn the open meeting at 8:15 p.m.