

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. Robb at 7:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members: Robb, Baker, Allen, Gerber, Kaplan (left early), Stein (Manire-Gatti-absent)
Staff: Ziomek, Ciccarello
Public: Nick Grabbe, Jane Chalmers, Larry Archey, Ann Marton

CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S ACTION

Approve Minutes

VOTED Allen, Gerber, Kaplan, and Stein voted "Aye", Baker & Robb abstained to approve the Conservation Commission minutes of August 8, 2007.

PERMITS/CERTIFICATES

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 7:33 p.m.

Ann Marton presented on behalf of Hampshire College.

VOTED Allen, Baker (Chaired), Gerber, and Stein voted "Aye", Kaplan abstained and Robb recused herself, to continue the public hearing to September 12, 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 8:13 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 8:23 p.m.

Jason Skeels, Town Engineer, presented.

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to close the public hearing and to issue a negative determination for the work.

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 8:26 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 9:08 p.m.

Steve Pikul, of Berkshire Design, presented.

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to continue the discussion regarding the order of conditions to September 12, 2007 at 7:40 p.m.

Request for Determination – Eaglecrest Property Management – for drainage and parking lot improvements in the buffer zone of bordering vegetated wetlands at 500 West Street (Map 20C, Lot 37).

- Opened the public hearing at 9:11 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 10:00 p.m.

VOTED unanimously (5-0) (Kaplan left) to close the public hearing and to issue a negative determination with the following special conditions for the work.

Special Conditions for 500 West Street:

1. Snow removal be directed away from catch basins and directed towards the east lawn area.
2. The final catch basin shall be retrofitted with a mechanical separation stormwater treatment chamber.
3. Calcium chloride shall be used in lieu of salt and/or sand for de-icing.
4. An Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan for the stormwater system shall be submitted to the Commission prior to work. The O&M Plan shall include bi-annual reports to the Commission.
5. This page of special conditions shall be posted in the management office or some other central location.

Ratify DCR Rail Trail Emergency Certificate

VOTED unanimously (5-0) to ratify the Emergency Certificate issued to the Town of Amherst Department of Public Works. The certificate was issued on August 20, 2007 by Stephanie Ciccarello, Wetlands Administrator for work on Potwine Lane to repair a roadway sink hole over a failed culvert pipe that was causing a threat to public safety.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dave Ziomek spoke of the Open Space and Recreation Plan in the context of the Master Plan. A draft plan was presented that summarizes where efforts would be focused in preserving/conserving land. He feels that staff and citizens should have input, asking and looking at what the resource values that should be protected are. An Open Space and Recreation Plan is required in order to receive the Self Help Grant recently submitted for the Cushman Brook Corridor project. If we are successful in receiving the grant, it would then go before the CPAC for consideration at the Special Town Meeting on November 5. The Conservation Commission will be looked to for support. Mr. Ziomek hopes that the members of the Conservation Commission will attend the meetings this fall.

Mr. Ziomek indicated that the field season is ending and has been funded by outside resources. The crew is trying to wrap up manual labor projects requiring more than two people.

The Department is looking to replace the Chevy and may pool bid with the DPW.

Mr. Ziomek will be working at Cherry Hill next week with Barbara Bilz to resolve the issue of the old bridge and the gas storage tanks.

Town Hall offices will be closed on Thursday, August 23rd for clean up day.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED unanimously (5-0) to adjourn the open meeting at 10:45 p.m.