

Conservation Commission Meeting
April 23, 2008
First Floor Meeting Room, Amherst Town Hall

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. Robb at 7:03 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Robb (left meeting at 9:20 p.m.), Baker, Gerber, Kaplan (left the meeting at 8:40), Manire-Gatti, Stein

ABSENT: Allen

STAFF: Ciccarello

OTHERS: Alan Weiss, Ellen Stutsman, Mark Tassanari, Alice & Seymour Epstein, Paul Cole, Rob Quinn, John Fitz-Gibbons, Chuck Dauchy, Ward Smith

CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S ACTION

Approve Minutes

VOTED unanimously (6-0), to approve as amended the Conservation Commission minutes of April 9, 2008.

VOTED unanimously (6-0), to approve but not release the Conservation Commission Executive Session minutes of April 9, 2008.

Right-to-Farm Bylaw

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to endorse the Right-to-Farm Bylaw at Town Meeting.

PERMITS/CERTIFICATES

Notice of Intent – NOI 08-1105 (Cont'd from 3/26/08) – Andrews & LaVerdiere for construction of a climate controlled storage facility at Meadow Street, Amherst (Map 4D, Lots 1 & 2).

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0), to continue the public hearing to May 14, 2008 at 7:40 p.m.

Request for Determination – RFD 08-1112 – Cold Spring Environmental Consultants (for Karen Helfer) for repair of the subsurface disposal system at 26 Foxglove Lane, Amherst, MA (Map 21D, Lot 48)

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

Alan Weiss and Ellen Stutsman were available to present the proposal to the Commission and to answer questions.

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

Request for Determination – RFD 08-1113 – Seymour & Alice Epstein for Determination of the status of two streams at 1194 West Street, Amherst, MA (Map 25B, Parcel 29).

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

VOTED unanimously (5-0-1) Robb, Baker, Gerber, Kaplan and Manire-Gatti voted “Aye,” Stein abstained, to issue a letter to the Epsteins that the Conservation Commission will not take action on the Determination under the State WPA.

VOTED unanimously (5-0) (Kaplan left meeting at 9:20 p.m.), to continue the public hearing to May 14, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Notice of Intent – NOI 08-1106 (Cont’d from 3/26/08) – Andrews and LaVerdiere for construction of an office building at Meadow Street, Amherst (Map 4D, Lot 3).

- Opened the public hearing at 9:23 p.m.

VOTED unanimously (5-0) to continue the public hearing to June 11, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Request for Determination – RFD 08-1114 – Amherst College for renovation of an existing house and construction of a new parking lot at 297 South Pleasant Street, Amherst (Map 14C, Parcels 83 & 52)

- Opened the public hearing at 9:25 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 9:35 p.m.

Mark Tassanari of Amherst College presented for the applicant.

VOTED unanimously (5-0), to close the public hearing and to issue a negative determination for the work.

UNTIMED ITEMS

CPA Projects Update

Liv Baker gave an update of the CPA projects that are to go before Town Meeting.

Bergstrom Rezoning Proposal

Liv indicated that she thought it was important for the Commission to take a stand on this proposal.

VOTED (3-0-1) Baker, Gerber and Manire-Gatti voted “Aye,” and Stein abstained, to support the Agricultural Commission’s position on the Bergstrom Rezoning Proposal.

Hall Property Access

Liv Baker gave an update of the status of the license agreement for access to the Hall property.

MISCELLANEOUS

Skyline Builders – Stanley Street (RFD 08-1111)

The Commission discussed and agreed to strike the special condition requiring 18’ height of fencing voted on April 9, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 9:45 p.m.