

**Conservation Commission Meeting
January 23, 2019
Town Room, Amherst Town Hall**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. Angus (C) at 7:01 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Angus, Clark, Fair, Allen, Butler

Staff: Willson

CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS

Willson stated there are letters from abutters and other concerned citizens in the Commission's packets regarding the Hickory Ridge project. She added there are erosion control monitoring reports for West St., University Dr., and Pulpit Hill in the Commission's packets.

MINUTES

No Minutes to review.

PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS

7:15 PM Informal Discussion - Mickey Marcus, SWCA, for farm road off Teawaddle Lane and Landfill Solar project

Marcus stated he is here to introduce a couple projects and get the Commission's general feedback before putting applications together. The solar project proposed for the North (new) Landfill on Belchertown Rd is a town project. All proposed work is outside the 100' buffer. He's wondering if the Commission still feels like an RDA is needed? There are drainage swales that were built for the landfill, but are not jurisdictional wetlands. The site is within NHESP priority habitat and he doesn't know all the details of the agreement the town has been working on with NHESP for the project. Willson to ask Ciccarello for details.

Marcus stated he has been approached by the owner of a farm on Teawaddle Hill Rd who would like to do some work on her farm in resource areas and buffer zone. She would like to build a farm road stream crossing for her tractor. She would also like to remove invasives. It is suggested the Commission conduct a site visit in the spring, Willson to coordinate.

NO VOTE

7:30 PM Request for Determination - Amherst Water Department for construction of a generator pad within buffer zone to resource areas off Southeast St. (Map 27B, Parcel 25).

Paul Dethier, DPW, presented the project. A concrete pad is needed next to Well #4 for a back up generator. The site is located within buffer zone to an intermittent stream. Erosion control will be used between the work area and the resource area.

Clark moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to close the public meeting and issue a Negative #3 Determination.

7:45 PM Notice of Intent (cont'd from 1-9-19 mtg) - Charles Kovacic/Direct Energy Solar for installation of a solar array and associated access roads, utility poles, transformer pad, and fencing within Riverfront, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, and buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at 191 West Pomeroy Lane (Map 19D, Parcel 10).

Alex Patterson presented. He stated they met with the Town Tree Warden, Alan Snow, and the Planning Board. All the trees to be taken down have been inventoried, there is approximately 200. A bridge structural study is underway, the field work is complete and they are waiting on the analysis, hopefully have the report next week. He stated they are changing the design so that the eastern access road is the existing maintenance building driveway. Patterson stated they determined that the base flood elevation is 140-142 feet. He stated they added a compensatory storage area near the southwest corner of the eastern solar array. NOI revisions also include adding a list of construction vehicles, a new alternatives analysis, and additional erosion control. They changed the NOI so that it is no longer a limited project, they are complying with the Riverfront Redevelopment performance standards.

Willson to ask DEP about delineating fairways. Clark asked how the access roads will be built with the amount of flooding the site gets. Patterson stated no construction will take place when there is flooding. They will provide more information on the bridge study and design at the next meeting. Patterson stated the Commission may visit the site whenever they want for a site visit.

Michael Burtwhistle, club member, stated he's been a member for 20 years and the river floods into the southwestern area where the western access road is proposed every spring and now fall too. This is less problematic on the eastern side. He asked if the gates to the arrays will block walking the land for pedestrians?

Jim Wright, neighbor, presented photos of the golf course flooded to the Commission.

Tom Joyce, club member, stated he joined the club in 1972 and it floods. He stated the electric line poles along the western access road will be sitting in water, and the new gravel access roads will redirect the water to places we might not like it to go.

Butler moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-1, Fair abstained) to continue the public hearing until February 13 at 8:00pm. The applicant agreed to the continuance.

8:00 PM Notice of Intent (cont'd from 1-19-19 mtg) - Niels LaCour/UMASS Campus Planning for Operation & Maintenance Plan for twenty-four parcels owned by UMASS within jurisdictional areas.

Mickey Marcus, SWCA, presented. He stated the NOI is a work in progress. We conducted a site visit with the Commission that went well, covered many of the properties. He's happy to do another if needed. Requests a continuance at this time to continue to incorporate the Commission's previous comments regarding how the document should be presented.

Clark moved and Butler seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to continue the public hearing until February 13 at 7:45pm. The applicant agreed to the continuance.

Miscellaneous Untimed Items

- Certificate of Compliance – 102 Linden Ridge Rd. (Lot 24)

Willson stated she conducted a site visit that morning. It is an undeveloped lot, with no wetlands on it. The road infrastructure is complete. She provided photos on the overhead.

Clark moved and Butler seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to issue the COC.

- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Adjournment

Voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 9:50 PM.