

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 12, 2022  
7:00 PM**

Members Present: Jenn Fair, LeRoy Gaynor, Fletcher Clark, Michelle Labbe, Lawrence Ambs

Members Absent: Laura Pagliarulo

Staff Present: Erin Jacque, Wetlands Administrator, David Ziomek, Director of Conservation & Development/Assistant Town Manager

Comments from the Chair (Jenn Fair) None.

Director's Report (Dave)

- Robert Frost Trail \$30k reimbursement
- Capital funding for new trails
- Assistant Land Manager search underway
- Developing project list for 2022
- Funding backlog/deferred maintenance capital and CPA funds
- Hickory Ridge CBDG Funding, CPAC funding from Town Council
- Hickory Ridge, close to closing

Emergency Certifications

*Moved by Ambs to ratify the Emergency Certification for 36 The Hollow. Seconded by Clark. All in favor.*

*Moved by Labbe to ratify the Emergency Certification for 106 Pelham Hill Road. Seconded by Gaynor. All in favor.*

*Moved by Clark to ratify the Emergency Certification for 263 College Street. Seconded by Ambs. All in favor.*

Request for Minor Administrative Change to Order of Conditions

*Moved by Clark to approve Minor Administrative Change for the Hickory Ridge Solar Project for relocation of the poles from east side of the access to the west side of access. Seconded by Ambs. All in favor.*

Canton Ave. Jacque explained that the owner wants to move forward with a pre-construction meeting on the other lot in subdivision. Jacque noted that the Enforcement issue on the subdivision has not been resolved and the revised Engineered plan for the house and stormwater has not been submitted. Fair, Gaynor, Clark, Ambs, and Labbe all stated that no preconstruction meeting can take place for work associated with the Order of Conditions until the Enforcement issue is resolved.

1107 North Pleasant. Jacque noted a letter was sent to the owner requiring them to file a Notice of Intent Application.

Jacque also noted a site visit was performed with Anna Novey Cook (Integrity Builders) to confirm lot 57 Concord Way is outside of the 100-foot buffer zone.

#### Certificates of Compliance

*Moved by Clark to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 15 Alyssum Drive. Seconded by Gaynor. All in favor.*

**7:30 PM Notice of Intent** – Town of Amherst Department of Public Works for roadway, and drainage improvements, and rehabilitation/improvements to footpath/bike path on Mill Lane (Map 17C, Lot 13).

Paul Dethier, Engineering Department, Department of Public Works was present and presented the application.

Jacque shared photos of the site and noted the following:

- Project filed as a “Limited Project” (Roadway and Bike Path)
- “Limited Projects” are reserved for situations where a design cannot meet the Regulations
- The only parcel affiliated with this project where the Regulations are not met is Lot 17C-59.
- The regulations allow alteration of 5,000 sq.ft. or 10% alteration is allowable under the Riverfront regulations on a lot created prior to Aug 6, 1996, provided the work is in the outer riparian with a 100-foot wide area of undisturbed vegetation.
- The lot is 20,400 sq. ft. owned by Recreation Department.
- Current alteration of the lot is ~1,650 sq. ft. (8%)
- Proposed alteration of the lot (including existing) is ~3,136 sq. ft. (15.3%), but under 5,000 sq. ft. (which is 25% of the lot)
- This is an additional ~1,486 sq. ft. most of which is in the **inner riparian (proposed look-off, and extended side walk).**
- So, on that lot, we exceeding 10% alteration, but we are also doing it in the inner riparian corridor.
- One suggestion would be to mitigate impacts with a restoration area in Groff Park approximately 1,500 sq. ft.
- Project removes excess impervious in outer riparian zone.
- Stormwater improvements are proposed as part of the project.

The Commission discussed a possible mitigation area in Groff Park or around the viewing area. The Commission also discussed removing the viewing area. It was noted by Fair that as a condition if the fence at the residential neighbor’s property is removed it will need to be replaced 6” off the ground to allow wildlife passage.

Ziomek noted the viewing area was created for people with mobility issues.

*Moved by Gaynor to issue Order of Conditions for DEP #089-0695 with state and local boilerplate conditions, monthly erosion control monitoring reports, erosion control inspection at the start of the project, mulch and seed is required on all exposed areas until vegetation is established, final inspection prior to removal of erosion controls, 100-year flood elevation shall be surveyed prior to the placement of fill being placed in the private driveway, and no fill may be placed in the 100-year flood elevation. Seconded by Amb. All in favor.*

Clark asked who was funding the project. Ziomek answered CBDG. Labbe asked if there are guidelines in town for tree and shrub planting. Labbe asked if the plantings at the viewing platform can be native. Dethier said the plantings were recommended by the tree warden, but if the Commission has specific recommendations to let him know.

*Moved by Ambs to adjourn at 8:20 PM. Seconded by Clark. All in favor.*