

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
May 27, 2020
7:00 PM**

Present: Fletcher Clark, Lawrence Ambs, Brett Butler, Jenn Fair, LeRoy Gaynor.

Absent: Ana Devlin Gauthier, Laura Pagliarulo

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

Comments from the Chair (Brett Butler)

Director's Report (Dave)

- Puffers Pond – Trail Work
- Beaver issue at Podick Conservation Area
- Wentworth Farm 2 encroachments, Dave will reach out to land owners.
 - Kestrel Lane – clearing near wetland
 - Backyard expansion
- Epstein routine maintenance planned
- Clearing of invasive species at Richi property
- Hickory Ridge purchase proceeding
- Puffers – attendance and limitations

7:10 PM Conservation Land Management

Discussion of Agricultural License

Pete Haskins – Market Hill Road CR

- Keet Haskins – vote in 2 weeks to accept.
- Agricultural Licenses – Amethyst Brook – Ryan Carb will be in attendance at the next meeting to discuss.

7:30 PM Request for Determination of Applicability – Confirm whether the proposed work to replace the existing pavement and sidewalks (without expansion of footprint/increase of impervious area), connection of downspouts from roofs to existing drain pipes, and landscaping updates are subject to the MA Wetlands Protection Act and Amherst Wetlands Protection Bylaw Regulations at 1-18 Winston Court (Map 18B, Parcel 63).

Bucky Sparkle was present on behalf of the applicant and presented proposed plans.

Clark stated filters need to be added to stormwater inlets, changed annually and be inspected quarterly.

No public comment.

Moved by Clark to issue Positive Determination under local bylaw checking box B5, negative determination checking box 2 and Box 3. Seconded by Fair. All in favor.

7:45 PM Notice of Intent – Application submitted by The Common School and Berkshire Design Group to repave the existing driveway access from South Pleasant Street and convert the existing gravel turnaround to pavement within the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at 521 South Pleasant Street (Map 17A, Parcel 78).

Mike Liu was present from The Berkshire Design Group and presented the project. Ziomek asked about overland flow toward Larch Hill. Hoping design will increase infiltration. Discussion of impervious surface. Butler asked about pervious pavers.

No public comment.

Moved by Ambs to issue Order of Conditions with inlet protection for catch basin in the gravel turn around and outlet protection at the catch basin outlet. Seconded by Clark. All in favor.

7:50 PM Notice of Intent – Application submitted by Tessa Smit and GZA GEOENVIRONMENTAL INC. for the construction of a single-family home outside of jurisdictional areas, with grading and site work within the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at 0 Leverett Road (Map 3A, Parcel 102; formerly Parcels 17 & 18).

Joe Rogers, GZA present on behalf of the owner. Leach field outside of buffer.

No public comment

Jacque recommended:

- Manure storage outside of 100-foot buffer
- Pollinator Habitat/Conservation Mix over leach field
- Define limit of work (existing fenceline)
- Boulders at pivot points of cleared area
- Boiler plate and local conditions

Moved by Clark to approve Order of Conditions with noted conditions. Seconded by Laura. All in favor.

7:55 PM Request for Determination – Application submitted by Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Highway Division) and Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI) to confirm whether the proposed work to reconstruct the roadway, install 5.5-foot sidewalks with 3-foot grassed buffers, and drainage infrastructure upgrades are subject to the MA Wetlands Protection Act.

Brian Meyers present from GPI presented the project.

Moved by Ambs to continue MassDOT hearing to June 10, 2020 at 8:00 PM. Seconded by Gaynor. All in favor.

Emergency Certification – Pine Grove Conduit Replacement – Eversource

Moved by Clark to ratify Emergency Certification for Eversource Pine Grove Conduit Replacement. Seconded by Ambs. All in favor.

Moved to adjourn by Clark. Seconded by Ambs. All in favor.