

**Conservation Commission Meeting  
August 27, 2014  
Town Room, Amherst Town Hall**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Ms. Angus, Chair at 7:04 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Present: Angus (C), Boice (VC), Allen, Healey, Brooks

Staff: Ziomek, Willson

**CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS**

Willson stated that the 7:45pm applicant, The Brook at Amherst Green, did not mail out their abutter notification on time so we won't be opening the hearing. It will be re-advertised for next meeting.

Willson stated all the drainage work along the Norwottuck Rail Trail will be finished this week.

UMASS Campus Pond's water level was lowered because people were concerned about the trees on the banks getting saturated. Now the water level is too low for the aeration system to run and an island of sediment has developed. Healey asked what they were doing in the spring. Willson said they were hydro-raking, removing aquatic vegetation. It's needs to be dredged. Willson showed photos of Retreat wetland restoration sites, work is complete, been re-seeded, etc.

Ziomek showed pictures and presented Wentworth and Amethyst Conservation Areas permitted work. Work on the extension of the accessible trail at the Orchard Arboretum is underway. Work is completely funded by private donations. Hopefully have a dedication ceremony in October, 2014. Ziomek going to CPAC meeting tomorrow night, will be discussing vote on November ballot to increase tax from 1.5% to 3%.

**MINUTES**

No minutes.

**PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS**

**7:15 PM Request for Determination** – Tofino Associates, LLC for paving of a parking area within buffer zone to an intermittent stream at 138 Sunderland Rd. (Map 5A, Parcel 26).

Ted Parker, volunteer with Survival Center, presented project. Construction of Survival Center was permitted in 2011. There is an intermittent stream along the northern boundary of the property. Only change from original permitted plan is a change to the grading and layout of the parking lot. Healey stated it's not paved now, paving is proposed? Parker responded yes, but paving was what was originally permitted but not done due to cost. Willson clarified by saying the original storm water calculations were based on pavement but the approved construction plans said gravel. Erosion control will go around the entire site. Helen (member of the public) asked if the stream has a name, and commented that if the

parking lot was to be made level it would be a significant drop within increased drainage. Parker stated the parking lot will still be higher up but will be one level/plain still draining to the catch basin in the southwest corner. Helen asked how many more parking spaces. Parker said a few more, not sure of the number.

**Healey moved and Boice seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0)** to close meeting and issue Negative Determination #3 with no conditions.

**7:30 PM Notice of Intent** – Tofino Associates, LLC for construction of a single family house within buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands at Lot 45 Hawthorn Rd. (Map 21D, Parcel 165).

Ted Parker, Tofino Associates, presented. Construction of this subdivision was started in 2004 and extended through the permit extension act and by the Commission. Proposing to build a single family home. Structure is over 50' from wetland line, clearing for lawn to 30' setback. Angus suggested marking 30' setback permanently. Parker said happy to mark using rocks. Parker asked if dead trees right on 30' line could be removed. Have wetlands administrator take a look once 30' line identified and other clearing done. Have not received a DEP file number or a letter from Natural Heritage so hearing must be continued. Member of public asked what is proposed direction of flow from roof runoff. He has drainage issues (water in basement). Parker showed proposed flow on plans which is towards electrical box and road not toward neighbor's property. Electrical box built to drain.

**Boice moved and Healey seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0)** to continue hearing until 9/10/14 at 8:15PM.

**7:45 PM Notice of Intent** – The Brook at Amherst Green C/O Classic Management for drainage improvements and paving of parking areas within Riverfront and Bordering Land Subject to Flooding at 170 East Hadley Rd (Map 16D, Parcel 14).

Willson stated not opening because applicant did not mail out their abutter notification on time. Hearing will be re-advertised for next meeting.

**Miscellaneous Untimed Items:**

- Certificate of Compliance – RGC, LLC for South East St. parcel.

Willson stated this COC is for two remaining private lots sold as part of SE St. parcel agreement. Con Com has already issued COC for portion becoming conservation land. Original Order of Conditions was for construction of subdivision which never happened.

**Healey moved and Boice seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0)** to approve COC.

- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting

### **Adjournment**

**Voted** unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 8:40 PM.