

**Conservation Commission Meeting
September 10, 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, Clark, Butler

Staff: Ziomek, Willson

CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS

Willson presented pictures of wetland restoration areas on Henry St. (Retreat site). Erosion control and signs up, will hopefully keep people out. Restoration is complete, raked, seeded and mulched. Restored stream beds a little where necessary. Some areas naturally re-vegetating. Willson inspected erosion control at Olympia Place, installed per plan.

Ziomek visited Olympia Drive, Olympia Oaks 75% complete and Olympia Place demo gearing up. Trail being slightly relocated and new trailhead parking established just north of Olympia Place. Puffer's Pond very busy, without fence cliffs hard to deal with working on getting quotes from fence contractors. Extension of handicap accessible trail at Orchard Arboretum done, paved by Taylor Davis. Amethyst Brook parking lot improvements 90% done. Still need to fill Amethyst Brook and Puffer's Pond kiosks. Showed pictures of new Wentworth Farm parking area, 85% complete.

Boice stated that the CPAC is having a public forum to gather ideas/opinions on how CPA funds are spent on September 30, 2014 at 7pm in the Town Room, Town Hall. More support for open space projects the better.

MINUTES

Review/Approve 5/29/14 minutes

Boice moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to approve minutes of 5/29/14.

PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS

7:10 PM Request for Determination – Christopher E. Riddle for construction of a garage, driveway extension, and house addition within the buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands at 252 Strong St. (Map 12A, Parcel 50).

Chris Riddle presented the project. Wetland delineation done by Chuck Dauchy. Erosion control will be installed between the work area and wetland areas. Constructing new garage, moving driveway, adding to the house and moving a shed. Goal is to add PV to rooftops. No work within 50' of wetland.

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

7:15 PM Request for Determination – Louis Parrot for septic system replacement within buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands at 55 Highpoint Dr. (Map 6B, Parcel 71).

Allen Weiss, Cold Spring Env. Consultants, presented project. Looked at a few locations for new septic system, this location best soils other locations soils too wet. Got a variance from the Health Dept. to be 75-80 ft. from well location, all approved by Health Dept. Willson showed photos from site visit. Access will be along the east side of the house very close to wetland. Willson asked if trucks could access around other side of house so no clearing & grading would be necessary. Weiss responded contractor did not think his trucks could make the turn at the back of the house if they went that way.

Boice moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to close meeting and issue Negative Determination #3 with condition that best effort be made to access the site with least amount of impact within buffer zone.

7:25 PM Request for Determination – Katie & Jason Irizarry for replacement of a fence within buffer zone to an intermittent stream at 38 S. Orchard Dr. (Map 26B, Parcel 116).

Katie Irizarry presented the project. She stated they currently have a fence that encloses their in-ground pool installed about 2005. Want to replace and extend fence adjacent to stream & wetlands. Willson presented old delineation and application from 2003 for sewer line. Irizarry stated new fence will go along property line. Would like to cut down some of the sumac trees if allowed, would leave pine trees. Willson stated looking at old delineation fence is approximately 15 ft from wetland. Angus asked if applicant amenable to angled fence as wetland gets closer to property line. Butler suggested east side where stream is be a no-management (mowing, etc.) area. Willson added delineation will be needed in the future for any other proposed work. Irizarry asked if OK to remove sumac. Yes.

Boice moved and Butler seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to close hearing and issue Neg #3 with conditions that at NE corner of existing fence new fence angle in at a NW angle, outside fence no management of vegetation, and no use of chemicals on vegetation on entire property.

7:30 PM Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (cont'd from 7-23-14 mtg) – Retreat at Amherst, LLC for confirmation of resource areas and their boundaries at a property bounded by Henry St. and Flat Hills Rd (Map 6A, Parcels 84, 91, 95 & 96).

Tony Wonseski, SVE Assoc., consultant for project requested a two week continuance of the public hearing. Willson stated continuance would be until September 23, 2014 at 7:30pm.

Willson stated to Commission that Landmark withdrew their Site Plan Review application with the Planning Brd. the ANRAD has not been withdrawn and property owner may continue hearing process to get delineation approved by the Con Com. Landmark continued tonight because they are in discussions

with Cows and their lawyers to figure out who is responsible for ANRAD application. All monitoring and work under the enforcement orders continues.

Willson stated we can not have a Con Com mtg on September 24 because it's Rashashana, could re-schedule for September 23 if that works for people. Everyone OK, next mtg Tuesday, Sept. 23rd in first floor mtg room.

Boice moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to continue the public hearing until September 23, 2014 at 7:30pm.

8:00 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).

Jeff Squire, Berkshire Design, presented project. Two parts to project re-surfacing parking lots and improving drainage. No compensatory storage because no new construction. Exempt from submitting to MESA because utility. Willson asked if the current stormwater outfalls go directly into the Fort River. Squire said they will be determining that during the work. Willson asked if there were any plans to improve outfalls. Squire said yes if eroding bank, etc. this will be addressed. Project includes cleanout of existing lines, cameras in lines to inspect integrity. Willson stated DEP has not issued a file number for the application yet. Ziomek recommended the Conservation Commission and applicant walk the Fort River and take a look at the outfalls. Willson said will set up site walk. Ziomek asked if the original system has an O&M Plan. Squire said probably not, very old. Angus suggested consultant talk to property owner about current management and we further discuss at next meeting.

Butler moved and Boice seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to continue the public hearing until September 23, 2014 at 7:45pm.

8:15 PM Notice of Intent (cont'd from 8-27-14) – 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).

Angus stated we have letter from Natural Heritage. Ted Parker presented project for commissioners that were not present at the previous meeting. Neighbor was concerned about drainage, however, all drainage from proposed constructed house will drain towards road and to the SE away from neighbor's house. Boice stated we talked about marking 30' setback with boulders. Parker stated he had arborist come out to look at hemlock right on 30' line. He asked to include oiling tree (treatment) as part of this application.

Clark moved and Boice seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to close the public hearing and issue an Order of Conditions with the following special conditions to mark 30' setback with boulders and treat tree with oil that's acceptable near wetlands.

8:30 PM Notice of Intent (cont'd from 8-13-14 mtg) – Town of Amherst Conservation Department for replacement of cribbing, installation of fencing & trail repairs within resource areas at Puffer's Pond Conservation Area (Map 5B, Parcels 16, 129 & 130 and Map 2D, Parcel 8).

Ziomek stated Conservation Dept is requesting a continuance until next meeting.

Butler moved and Boice seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to continue the public hearing until September 23, 2014 at 8:00 PM.

Miscellaneous Untimed Items:

Ziomek would like to have a site visit at the SE St. conservation area. Willson will organize.

- Re-schedule September 24th mtg – discussed/decided previously
- Certificate of Compliance – 418 N. Pleasant St.

Willson showed photos.

Clark moved and Boice seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to approve Certificate of Compliance.

- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting

Adjournment

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