

**Conservation Commission Meeting
February 25, 2015
Town Room, Amherst Town Hall**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. Angus, Chair at 7:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Angus (C), Boice (VC), Allen, Clark

Staff: Willson

CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS

Willson stated that the Ag workshop is Monday night in the Pole Rm of the Bangs Center. Have been advertising, it's on the Town's webpage and sent out a press release. It's going to be a question and answer format with a little introduction by Briony and Ag Chair. We're using funding from the Ag Com for snacks, hopefully from All Things Local.

Willson stated she did a site visit to Eastman Lane duct project. She has asked them to clean the road and catchbasins and to put straw down on stream banks and move equipment at least 50' from stream.

MINUTES

Review/approve minutes 7-9-14.

Allen moved and Boice seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0) to approve the minutes of 7-9-14.

PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS

7:15 PM Notice of Intent – Catherine & Robert Cann for demolition of a single-family house and barn and construction of a new single family house and workshop within Riverfront at 189 Mill Ln (Map 17D, Parcel 22).

Willson stated we can't close the hearing tonight because we haven't been able to confirm the wetland line due to the snow. Andy Bohn, New England Environmental, presented the project. There is a mapped perennial stream to the east of the property that flows from the south to the north that was delineated at top of bank. There are two red maple swamps on either side of the stream, the boundary adjacent to the property has been delineated. The existing house and some asphalt is entirely within the Riverfront. The yard is mostly mown lawn with some wooded areas around the edges. The yard slopes heavily from the west to east down to the wetland. Will need to manage drainage during construction well due to topography. Proposing to remove house and build a smaller footprint workshop/studio bldg at that location. Rain gardens will be built on either side of the workshop/studio bldg to capture most of the drainage from the property. Currently the stormwater is not managed at all, three catch basins are located in the driveway which drain to outfalls by the wetland. Removing two of the catch basins and keeping one that sits at a higher elevation so would only collect drainage from large rain events. There

will be vegetated swales around the property to filter and direct water into the rain gardens. Removing entire house, garage and foundation.

Proposed new house will be upgradient away from the wetland and outside the 100' buffer zone. Landscaping will include a mown area right around the house, wildflower meadows on slopes, and vegetated swales. Paved parking area will be replaced with a grass parking area. Erosion control will consist of a reinforced silt fence with strawbales in front. Between erosion control line and property line along eastern boundary is where Riverfront enhancement area will be which will consist of removing invasive species (multi-flora rose).

Willson asked if the rain gardens will be used during construction as temporary sedimentation basins. Bohn said yes. Willson said temp sedimentation basins need to be cleaned out very well at the end of construction if they're going to be used as permanent basins. The hope is to start construction in April/May 2015.

Bohn said there is Riverfront on the parcel, it's all between the 100 & 200' line. Angus asked if the applicant was trying to prove intermittent vs perennial. Bohn said no, they are going with the stream being perennial. Bohn said the proposed building in Riverfront will have a smaller footprint than what's there now and will be further away from the wetland. Mitigation includes taking the square footage of what had been impervious and turning it into rain gardens, taking Riverfront areas that were previously mown and planting with wildflower/grass mixes, and the invasive species removal along the northern boundary. Clark what is invasive species removal strategy? Bohn suggesting cut stem treatment and removal followed by replanting, however, looking for suggestions from the Commission. Allen said cover with black plastic.

Angus stated she doesn't feel they are meeting restoration & mitigation requirements for Riverfront. The numbers do not add up for square footage of impact and proposed square footage of restoration and mitigation. Bohn responded they will take another look at the numbers. Angus asked Commission how they feel about invasive removal as mitigation? Boice responded in the past we have asked for additional mitigation when invasive removal didn't seem like enough. Bohn presented plan showing mitigation area. Angus stated they need to provide a breakdown of the impact/restoration/mitigation numbers and a plant list for the mitigation area. Willson asked what is the current square footage of multiflora rose removal? Bohn about 2,700 square feet.

Boice moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0) to continue the public hearing to March 11th at 7:45 PM. Applicant agreed to continue.

Miscellaneous Untimed Items:

- Review/ Sign Slobody Baseline Report

Willson stated that everyone received an electronic copy, Allen was given a hard copy. She received comments from Brooks and has incorporated changes based on those comments.

Boice moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0) to accept the Slobody Baseline Report.

- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting

Adjournment

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