

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

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. Angus, Chair at 7:06 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Angus, Allen, Boice, Brooks

Staff: Willson

CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS

Willson stated she will be visiting Eastman Ln duct project, there have been reports of erosion. She was there recently and they may be coming before the Commission to change a drainage outfall location. She will also be touring Presidential Apts entire site.

MINUTES

No minutes reviewed.

PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS

7:15 PM Notice of Intent (cont'd from 3-11-15 mtg) – 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 the applicant emailed requesting a continuance to our next meeting.

Boice moved and Brooks seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0) to continue the public hearing until April 8th, 2015 at 7:30pm.

7:30 PM Amended Order of Conditions – Allen Cohn, Creative Communities Builders, Ltd. for construction of a maintenance/laundry building as part of Presidential Apartments within buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands at 950 North Pleasant St. (Map 8A, Parcel 1).

Matt ??, Huntley Assoc., presented proposed project addition. Proposing to build a laundry facility/maintenance building near the entrance to the new section of Pres Apts. Also adding a few more parking spaces to adjacent parking area, paved drive to maintenance building and sidewalks. Will construct an infiltration basin (dry well) for roof runoff that will have an overflow that will sheet flow to a catchbasin which goes into a culvert and under the driveway and discharges into an stream channel feeding the main wetland system in the back of the apts. There is an increase in the overall impervious area (he presented spread sheet with numbers).

Brooks stated at site visit noticed debris in small wetland and silt fence coming down. Matt responded that had already been fixed, debris removed and fence re-staked. Plan for this additional work shows new silt fence being installed around entire parking area.

Allen moved and Boice seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0) to close the public hearing and issue an Amended Order of Conditions.

Miscellaneous Untimed Items:

- Request for research on Conservation Land – Scott Jackson

Scott Jackson, Associate Professor UMASS, teaches class on wetland assessment and field techniques. Requesting to use conservation land for field labs. Would like to use Plum Springs and Poddick Conservation Areas. Only impact is digging of test pits for hydric soils, pits usually 16" deep and 6-10" diameter. One class will dig approximately 12 pits.

Allen moved and Boice seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0) to approve request to conduct field labs at Plum Brook and Poddick Conservation Areas.

- Request for Commission to support petition - Lisa Selkirk

Angus read email from Lisa Selkirk who has a petition resolution to be voted on at town meeting for Amherst to oppose the construction of the Tennessee Gas/Kinder Morgan gas pipeline. Selkirk is requesting to come before the Commission present her petition and have the Commission vote on whether or not they support the petition resolution. Angus doesn't feel Commission should take a stand on the issue considering the pipeline doesn't go through Amherst. Brooks agreed.

Brooks moved to not have Selkirk present information on her petition to the Commission, however, no one seconded so motion died.

Boice moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED (2-2-0) to allow a 5 minute or less presentation by Selkirk regarding her petition at an upcoming meeting. **TIE VOTE MOTION DOES NOT PASS**

Angus asked Willson to reach out to Commissioners not at mtg tonight about their feelings on Selkirk presenting to Commission.

- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting

Adjournment

Voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 7:45 PM.