

**Conservation Commission Meeting
August 23, 2017
Town Room, Amherst Town Hall**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. Angus, Chair at 7:02 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Angus, Allen, Clark, Brooks, Healey, Butler

Staff: Willson

CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS

Willson asked those who can attend the FEMA Flood Zone mtg on 9/12 to let her know via email. She stated UMASS is hydro-raking Campus Pond this week, work is permitted. She shared a letter and maps from Eversource Energy regarding work they will be performing along power lines in Amherst over the next few months. That work is exempt from permitting but she will keep an eye on them for violations. We have received DEP numbers for the two projects on Concord Way but have not received review letters from NHESP. Willson emailed the applicant to see if they were planning to attend tonight's meeting but did not hear back, so those may be continued.

Willson provided photos of projects currently under construction. Subdivision on West St. (Cole property) have finished clearing, erosion control is up and in good conditions, will be taking down barns next week. Alan Weiss is the erosion control monitor for that project, he was at the pre-construction meeting this morning. Contractor will install four foot high wooden posts painted blue along limit of work, which ranges from 30-55' from wetland boundary. Allan suggested using the rocks from the old retaining wall leading up to the barn to mark limit of work. Willson will talk to applicant about which type of marker to use. Willson visited Hoerle barn project on SE St. There was an area where the silt fence was down and there was some erosion occurring, Hoerle agreed to replace the silt fence. Willson visited the flag lot with a stream crossing on SE St. The stream crossing is not in yet, erosion control is up and in good shape. Willson visited sewer line installation on Meadow St., work is complete, they trenched two new sewer lines onto two lots. They will be removing temporary piping for swale and seeding and mulching the 25' cleared path.

MINUTES

Minutes 4-12-17

Brooks moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-1, Brooks abstained) to approve the minutes of 4-12-17.

Approved at the 1-10-18 Conservation Commission Mtg

PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS

7:30 PM Notice of Intent - Chris Riddle for invasive plant removal and restoration planting within bordering vegetated wetlands at 252 Strong St. (Map 12A, Parcel 50).

Angus stated when the state regulations were re-written two years ago they added a new Limited Project to section 10.53 for ecological restoration projects, and that is how this project is being filed. Applicant submitted abutter notification receipts. Joan Deely, project consultant, presented the project. She shared letters from abutters supporting the project. She presented the plan showing areas where invasives would be removed, the wetland line, and where invasives would be removed by hand vs mowing. No herbicide will be used within the wetland boundary or on conservation land. The contractor will mow, rake, and remove all invasives off-site. Deely stated the areas on Riddle's property and one of the abutters will be re-seeded as lawn. Willson asked if re-seeding conservation land with meadow grasses would help keep invasives down. Deely said probably not because there is already a good seed base in the soil. Could use winter rye this fall to stabilize loose soil. Brooks said property line needs to be demarcated. Chris Riddle said the Town needs to mow on its side of the property line or the invasives will just grow back onto his property. Willson stated the Town has agreed to mow annually as they always have at Gulliver Meadow Conservation Area, and if the area in the NE corner of the field is too wet they won't be able to mow.

Angus said one requirement of an Ecological Restoration Limited project is to publish a summary of the project in the Environmental Monitor which the applicant has done. Angus said we should make it clear in the conditions that no chemicals can be used in the wetland or on conservation land. Angus stated the NOI has a large wetland impact number, where did that come from? Deely said she measured the area on ArcMaps. Willson asked within buffer zone too? A review of the overhead maps showed Deely had included the area in buffer zone and will re-calculate that number. Willson said we should condition that in wetland areas only hand pulling shall be done of select invasive plants. There is quite a lot of native plants along the stream bank. Brooks asked if erosion control should be used along the bank. Angus said don't want to clog the wetland with haybales. Willson added we can condition that is there is a lot of soil disturbance from hand pulling large plants they should place some haybales between the disturbed soil and the stream. Willson presented pictures of the site on the overhead. Chris Riddle asked how the Commission would like the western boundary of his property marked? Commission suggests cedar posts.

Brooks moved and Healey seconded. Commission VOTED (6-0-0) to close the public hearing and issue the Order of Conditions with special conditions as stated for 252 Strong St.

7:45 PM Notice of Intent (cont'd from 8-14-17 mtg) - Ronald Bercume/Bercume Construction LLC for construction of a single family house within buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands on Lot 8 Concord Way (Map 21D, Parcel 132).

Angus asked for a motion to continue the public hearing for Lot 8, Concord Way because we have not

heard back from NHESP.

Clark moved and Healey seconded. Commission VOTED (6-0-0) to continue the public hearing until 9-13-17.

7:30 PM Notice of Intent (cont'd from 8-14-17 mtg) - Ronald Bercume/Bercume Construction LLC for construction of a single family house within buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands on Lot 11 Concord Way (Map 21D, Parcel 129).

Angus asked for a motion to continue the public hearing for Lot 11, Concord Way because we have not heard back from NHESP.

Clark moved and Healey seconded. Commission VOTED (6-0-0) to continue the public hearing until 9-13-17.

Miscellaneous Untimed Items:

- Certificate of Compliance – 51 Hop Brook Rd.

Willson stated a COC was issued in 2003 for the house construction but was never recorded. Willson visited the site and the house and yard have not encroached into the setbacks. She provided photos from the site visit.

Butler moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0) to issue the Certificate of Compliance.

- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to a meeting.

Adjournment

Voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 7:54 PM.