

Conservation Commission



19 WASHINGTON STREET
SHERBORN, MASSACHUSETTS 01770

October 15, 2009

Sherborn Town Hall

7:30 P.M.

Minutes of the Meeting

Members Present: Susan Tyler, Will Willis, Carl Shedd, Michael Lesser, Bridget Graziano (Agent/Administrator), Steve Gaskin (Chair)

Members Absent: Rob Eckert, Andrea Stiller

Guests: Eliot Taylor, Joyce Hastings (GLM Engineering Inc.), Art Schnure, Joseph Phillips, Marjie Freeman, Stephen Bonder, Howard Fisher, Julia Jacobson, Endre Hollosi

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

Public Hearing #1 – 25 Woodland Street-GLM Engineering (Assessor’s Map 12, Lot 86)

The Commission heard a proposal by Joyce Hastings of GLM Engineering Consultants, Inc. to replace an existing water line (located from existing dwelling to well) within already altered Bordering Vegetated Wetland and its associated 100’ buffer zone. Art Schnure, resident of 25 Woodland Street, was in attendance. The project involves digging a 5 ft. deep and 1.5 ft. wide trench to replace a water supply line. The well is also part of geothermal system used to heat the existing dwelling. Currently, the owners are without heat and water. In addition, the project includes the placement of an electrical line into the trench. The trench will be backfilled with original soil and seeded for stabilization. Vehicles will not be allowed to refuel or be parked in the buffer zone overnight. Equipment will not be allowed in the buffer zone overnight. Joyce noted that since no extreme slopes exist on the site, straw bales should suffice instead of straw

bales and a silt fence. Steve moved to close the hearing. This was seconded and accepted unanimously. The Commission agreed the silt fence would cause more damage to the wetland and its buffer zone, when trenched in. Steve moved to accept the Notice of Intent as written with the amendment that strawbales will be used only (instead of strawbales and silt fence) and that the strawbales are not necessary along the line of the boulders next to the house. This was seconded and accepted unanimously.

Public Hearing #2 – 20 Jackson Road-GLM Engineering (Assessor’s Map 4 Lot 9)

Joyce Hastings represented GLM Engineering Consultants, Inc. on a proposal to construct a new addition, driveway and front porch at an existing dwelling with some of the work being in the outer (50-100’) part of the 100’ buffer zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. About one-half of the approximately 1,800 square feet of buffer zone in the project is already altered. Joseph Phillips of 20 Jackson Road was in attendance. Joyce stated that as mitigation for work done in the buffer zone, about 2,000 square feet of impervious pavement (nearly all in the 0-50’ part of buffer zone) will be removed, and 970 sq ft of altered wetlands and 0-50’ part of buffer zone (a gravel path and lawn) will be left to return to natural state with some initial native wetland plantings. Straw bales backed by a silt fence will be used throughout the project. Steve moved to close the hearing. This was seconded and accepted unanimously. He noted the following: there is a net decrease in impervious area and decrease of lawn area in the buffer zone, and most of the decreases exist in the 0-50’ part of buffer zone and all of increases are in the 50-100’ part of buffer zone. Therefore, the project is a net improvement for the wetlands. Steve moved to accept the Notice of Intent as written with the exception of further calculations on the plan regarding the change in the lawn area in the buffer zone, the new driveway being pitched away from wetlands, and also the conversion of area along the existing driveway closest to the wetlands to naturally re-vegetate aided by planting a few native species. This was seconded and accepted unanimously.

Discussion #1 – 12 Wild Meadow Lane New Plan

Endre Hollosi of mlh design and Julia Jacobson, property owner, appeared before the Commission. Previously, the Commission has found that within the bounds of the fence lines, activities relating to raising horses for a profit are allowed under an agricultural exemption. Bridget reported that she looked into whether the brush and small trees removed for the safety of the horses was allowed under the existing plan and found that it was because it fell within the fence lines. The Commission asked that Ms. Jacobson supply the receipts from her first receipt to show that she is raising and selling horses for the goal of making a profit.

Discussion #2 – Remove Washington Street Enforcement Order

Michael moved that the Commission remove the Enforcement Order based on a statement from Bridget that Central Steel Supply Company complied with the Enforcement Order. This was seconded and accepted unanimously.

Discussion #3 – Invasive Species Management on Conservation Land

Commissioners discussed purchasing a GPS system in the future to identify and map invasive species on conservation land. It was suggested that Bridget focus on getting volunteers to help with work on surveying Conservation land for invasive species. The survey should be conducted using assessor maps and marked by hand. Then initial efforts at removal using volunteers could be attempted. The option of finding a town volunteer who could be trained in invasives and oversee removal by volunteers was also discussed. As the project continues successfully, the Commission can revisit purchasing a GPS unit.

Discussion #4 – Appointment to Groundwater Protection Committee

The Commission is responsible for appointing someone to the Groundwater Protection Committee. Members discussed potential candidates for this position.

Approval of Minutes September 2009

Steve moved to accept the September 17, 2009 minutes as revised by the Commission. This was seconded and accepted unanimously.

Administrator's Report

- Filing Cabinet progress (ask CM&D)
- CM&D Guardrail Notice from Ed Wagner- A 30 day emergency certification will be issued to fix a guardrail on Lake Street, it is currently a public hazard and needs to be addressed immediately. Because the area is part of the Farm Pond Phase II Update, erosion controls are already in place.
- Farm Pond Phase II Update- Bridget gave the Commission information about the recent installation of a new catch basin, which is up to date with the new stormwater regulations.
- 237 Washington Street- Bridget reported that Town Counsel deemed recording the Enforcement Order on 237 Washington Street appropriate. The Commission has not received any new communication from the property owner since an August 12, 2009 letter. The letter stated that the illegal transfer station would be cleaned up, but over 60 days later the area has not improved. Members requested that Mr. Recine be contacted one more time before Town Counsel writes him a recording notification letter.
- 111 Coolidge Street new drainage-Site Visit- Bridget reported that she visited Sweet Meadow Farm and spoke to a MA DEP official after a complaint of altering a wetland was filed. She concluded that the farm owners are allowed to put in piping in the intermittent stream to direct water between the two fields currently under agricultural management. At the site visit it was found that soil was placed on the hay fields to fill

low areas on the field and then seeded. The low areas on the fields need to be level order to properly hay the fields with farm equipment.

- 38 Bullard Street Army Corp of Engineers Dredging of Bogastow Brook- Bridget reported that she is investigating an agreement made by the homeowners and the Army Corp of Engineers in which the homeowners would periodically dredge out Bogastow Brook. This agreement was signed in 1981 and has be in practice even since.
- CSX Rail Line Grant Application was filed by Gino Carlucci the Town Planner, Bridget Graziano the Conservation Agent/Administrator, and John Higley. This grant is to purchase the rail line south of the Whitney Street bridge. This will allow for the connection of the Rail Trail with Holliston and other surrounding towns.
- Board of Health Lyme Disease Posting- Members reviewed BOH Lyme disease signs. These signs will potentially be posted at every conservation land trail entrance.
- State Ethics Meeting Nov 16th (required testing)- Bridget reported that successful completion of a state ethics test is not yet required for municipal employees, but may be in the future.

Approval of Determinations of Applicability

The following Determinations were reviewed. Based on the recommendations of the Agent/Administrator, the Determinations were signed and approved by the Commission:

| <u>Address</u> | <u>Description of Work</u> | <u>Findings</u> |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|
| 22 Course Brook Road | Septic System | NEGATIVE |
| 32 Pleasant Street | Installation of well and septic line | NEGATIVE |
| 36 Brook Street | Installation of verizon wireless equipment with additional access roads | NEGATIVE |
| 136 Western Ave | Soil testing | NEGATIVE |
| 45 Greenwood Street | Proposed addition | NEGATIVE |
| 92 South Main Street | Soil testing | NEGATIVE |
| 23 Mill Street | Installation of Septic System | POSITIVE |
| 30 McGregor Drive | Ratify the Enforcement Order | RATIFIED |

Steve moved that the Commission vote to ratify the Enforcement Order. This was seconded and accepted unanimously.

Adjournment: Steve moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 P.M. This was seconded and accepted unanimously.

Respectfully

submitted,

Suzanne Trainor Minutes Clerk

Cc: Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, Planning Board, Building Dept., Town Clerk, Town Forest, Town Counsel, Sherborn Library, Advisory Committee, D/S Press, Zoning Board of Appeals, Sherborn Garden Club, Forest & Trail Assoc., Assessor, Groundwater Protection Committee, Farm Pond Advisory Committee

