

**HOLDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
VIRTUAL MEETING
MINUTES
May 5, 2021**

Members Present: Michael Scott, Kenneth Strom, David Nyman, Elizabeth Parent, Heather Parry, Cathy Doherty, Luke Boucher

Others Present: Glenda Williamson, Conservation Agent; Sara Flagg, Recording Secretary; Isabel McCauley, Holden DPW; Luke Haberman, Holden DPW Civil Engineer, Sterling Rd; Scott Morrison, Ecotec, Chaffin Substation; Kevin Soden, Electrical Engineer, Chaffin Substation; Barry Tupper, HMLD, Chaffin Substation; Carl Hultgren, Quinn Engineering, Chaffin Substation; Matt Wzorek, Tighe & Bond, Main St Drainage Improvements; Ann Sullivan, 50 Donald Ave, Main St Drainage Improvements; Gordon and Sue Whiteman, 54 Powers Rd, Main St Drainage Improvements; Jody Trunfio, TEC, Quinapoxet Street Culvert Replacement; David Berglund, 61 Willow Brook Rd; Tom Lewis, TEC Associates, P&W Railroad; Randy Waterman and Stephen Lane, WDA Design Group, Oakhill Subdivision, William Giordano, 78 Doyle Rd, Brattle St/Doyle Rd; Kevin Harmen, 60 Brattle St, Brattle St/Doyle Rd; John Woodsmall, Holden DPW

M Scott opened the meeting at 7:02 pm, read Gov. Baker's order regarding virtual meetings.

Notice of Intent – Main Street Drainage Improvements
DEP File #: 183-0681.

Matt Wzorek, Tighe & Bond, reviewed the design changes and comments that were addressed since last time.

M Scott asked if any of the committee members had questions/comments.

D Nyman asked what the capacity of the channel is where it comes together. Matt replied that they have not looked at that yet. Isabel McCauley, Holden DPW, replied that because volume is not increasing they don't feel it is necessary to evaluate the capacity.

K Strom mentioned some observations he saw on a site visit.

M Scott asked for any public comment.

Ann Sullivan, 50 Donald Ave, voiced concerns about the amount of water they currently receive and how they would be impacted. It appears the peak flow increases on the west side.

M. Wzorek showed the table which does shows a slight increase for peak flow and volume into the wetland but stated that overall there would be a decrease to Bailey Rd.

Gordon and Sue Whiteman, 54 Powers Rd, have concerns that there are damaged trees as part of this.

Isabel McCauley replied that the DPW is amenable to help with that after they can get the correct requirements since it is a private property.

M Scott said that the hearing will be continued to June 2, 2021 since the final report and plans have not been received.

Isabel McCauley asked if there is any additional needed to close for the next meeting.

M Scott said they should be able to do that after review of the comments.

Notice of Intent – Quinapoxet Street Culvert Replacement

DEP File #: 183-0689. Map 88-Pacel 6; Map 102-Parcels 12 and 22.

Isabel McCauley, read a statement that the Town and Environmental Engineering comments. Overall decision is that the culvert is being replaced with a larger pipe and aim to meet requirements but there are location and budget constraints. This will be an improvement and is a better option than an emergency repair in kind if the need would arise from not addressing this now.

Jody Trunfio, TEC, responded to the comments. For a structure greater than 10' there are many requirements which create additional construction and engineering costs.

M Scott asked for comment from the commission members.

E Parent commented that the additional information about the constraints tonight helped.

D Nyman stated that the replacement should meet to the maximum extent practical. The original submittal did not include the necessary information to understand how the decision was arrived at. That is why he supplied many comments. Would like to see a brief narrative on the costs for record in the file.

M Scott commented if there is any possibility to keep the roadway to stay under 10' but expanded.

M Scott asked if there have been any changes to the plans.

Jody replied that they have not as they wanted to make these explanations and have the discussion with the Commission prior to making any plan changes.

Isabel explained that the engineer has been given direction to stay with the 8' wide due to the site and budgetary constraints. They can provide written explanation for documentation.

M Scott said this item will be continued to the June 2, 2021 meeting.

Notice of Intent – 21 Adams Road – Chaffin’s Substation DEP File #: 183-0683. Map 187-Pacel 16.

Scott Morrison, Eco-tec, shared plans which show that the proposed area would involve work in the 100’ buffer. The vast majority of work is on the transformers outside of the 100’ buffer and some removal of gravel. Debris along the wetland would be removed. Transformers will be set on structures due to the mineral oil as part of the containment structure. Wetlands would be protected by straw wattles.

M Scott asked for Commission comments.

D Nyman had questions about the site grading which did not sufficiently depict the direction of runoff by sheet flow into areas intended to disperse and infiltrate runoff. He also asked about the roadway within the fenced area that drains into gravel, is there a reason it cannot be grass. He noted that there is a proposed 722 contour is that different than what is there currently.

Kevin Soden, Electrical Engineer, electrical grading control is the reason it would not be grass. If a lightning strike occurred it would prevent an electrical current from travelling through a persons body. The contour would try to be matched as closely as possible to what is there.

E Parent asked for clarification about the new outfall and requested more information about this so they can clarify the calculations for the stormwater report.

L Boucher asked about the 20’ easement. Scott Morrison, replied that he did not know but it is a steep slope so does not look like it would be for access purposes. Scott will check with the surveyor.

M Scott stated this item will be continued to the June 2, 2021 meeting.

Notice of Intent – Sterling Road Culverts DEP File #: 183-0686.

G Williamson read the legal ad into record.

I McCauley, Holden DPW, reviewed the project which would include resurfacing a section of Sterling Rd and during site walks they noticed there are some culverts that are deteriorating.

Luke Haberman, Holden Civil Engineer, shared the photos and plans for these 2 culverts. First is one at an intermittent stream 750’ west of Mason Rd. Intent is to match existing conditions and only changing the pipe material. 15” metal pipe to 15” HDPE. 2nd culvert is 3,300’ east of Mason Rd. this is an 18” metal pipe and would be converted to 18” HDPE, this one is a sustained stream through the culvert and on the outlet side the pipe is free floating and has rotted through.

D Nyman expressed concern over fixing it without complying fully with Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards.

I McCauley replied that they usually riprap the outlet and maintain the same slope. With minor culverts they replace in kind. They would be willing to look at other options but feel there is no history that the stream has been undersized.

M Scott suggested a corrugated pipe or larger pipe to slow the velocity of the water.

E Parent, disclosed she is an abutter on Sterling Road. Comments are that Culvert 1 looks to be very intermittent. Culvert 2 does seem to be significant and some consideration should be considered for reasonable alternatives for maximum extent practicable analysis. Statements made on the application should have supporting statements or documents to support it.

I McCauley responded that the layer for wetlands calculation was taken from the GIS. In regard to the culvert box they will not entertain this due to budget constraints but will look at a larger pipe and burying a portion. Wildlife evaluation was not done but they did use historic data for that determination.

Motion by K Strom, seconded by E Parent to continue NOI STERLING ROAD TO JUNE 2, 2021 MEETING. Approved by a vote 7-0-0.

Request for Determination of Applicability - 61 Willow Brook Road

Map 185, Parcel 57. David Berglund. Fill to be placed in an upland “sink hole” area and slope stabilization. The work is located in the 100-foot buffer of an intermittent stream/bordering vegetated wetland (*con't from 6/2020*)

G Williamson explained that this was from last year but due to Covid it has taken some time. Perrone Landscaping went out recently and Glenda was there to take photos.

David Berglund, homeowner, said Perrone Landscaping went out to excavate the sink hole and they found some tree stumps about 10' down. In addition to the filling of the hole he would like to do some slope stabilization. They plan to reopen the hole deeper and remove all of the buried tree stumps and then refill and regrade.

L Boucher asked if all work is limited to the lawn area. David replied yes.

Motion by K Strom, seconded by C Doherty to ISSUE A NEGATIVE 3 DETERMINATION FOR RDA 61 WILLOW BROOK RD WITH NO SPECIAL CONDITIONS. Approved by a vote 7-0-0.

Request for Determination of Applicability – Providence & Worcester (P&W) Railroad Renewal DOA for the P&W Railroad’s 2021-2025 Vegetation Management Plan. Portions of the management work are located within the 100-foot buffer to resource areas. Tom Lewis, TEC Associates. (*con't from 4/7/21*)

Tom Lewis, TEC Associates, stated an application was submitted to review the boundaries for the P&W Railroad's Vegetation Management Plan. DCR will be reviewing in detail in a few weeks.

M Scott asked if this area gets more scrutiny than other portions of the RR line. Tom replied yes because of the surface water in the Quabbin and Quinapoxet Reservoirs.

E Parent asked how vegetation is removed. T Lewis replied that in certain areas that they just allow it to grow because you cannot spray any herbicide.

T Lewis shared a map of the rail line. Light blue is a buffer zone area which has restrictions and can only use approved applications once a year. Dark blue indicates Class A tributary areas which only allows for one application every 2 years. Yellow indicates a non-application area.

Motion by K Strom, seconded by L Boucher to ISSUE A NEGATIVE 3 DETERMINATION FOR RDA PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD WITH NO SPECIAL CONDITIONS. Approved by a 7-0-0 vote.

Request for Final COC – Oakhill Subdivision

DEP File # 183-0572. Map 236 & 244, Parcels 5 & 2. Construction of subdivision roadways, utilities, infrastructure, grading and associated site work. Stephen Lane, Winter Ridge Limited Partnership, WDA Design Group.

M Scott and K Strom recused themselves. L Boucher took lead of this item.

Randy Waterman, WDA, reviewed the plans and project details.

D Nyman asked if all storm water standards are still being met. Randy replied yes they are and it has been discussed with I McCauley recently. D Nyman also asked about the excavation of earthen steps, rip-rapped roadway and embankment at the stream crossing. The applicant will look into this and correct any issues.

Pamela Harding, said she went there last week with Isabel and the detention ponds were stabilized. Pond 101 was recently worked in 10 days ago and showed some water.

Motion by E Parent, seconded by C Doherty to ISSUE A FINAL COC FOR OAKHILL SUBDIVISION WITH A CONDITION TO ADDRESS THE EARTHEN STEPS AND SUBMIT PHOTOS OF WORK COMPLETED WITHIN 5 BUSINESS DAYS. Approved by a vote 4-0-2 (M Scott and K Strom recused)

Request for Final COC – 133 & 139 Fisher Road

DEP File # 183-0618. Map 243, Parcel 21. The construction of two single-family homes, common driveway, septic systems, wells, grading and assoc. site work. Angeles Kosta, Kosta Realty LLC./Quinn Engineering.

G Williamson said everything is stabilized. Shared photos.

Motion by L Boucher, seconded by K Strom to issue final COC for 133 & 139 Fisher Road. Approved by a 5-0-1 vote (C Doherty abstained)

DISCUSSIONAL

-Heritage Lane Pump Station – G Williamson said it is almost stabilized and the trees planted are in good shape. Stated they requested to remove the erosion controls.

-Brattle St/Doyle Rd. – William Giordano, 78 Doyle Rd, explained that there is backyard flooding that has gotten worse and is creating a pond. There were steel drums and some sort of deteriorated piping. Glenda shared photos.

John Woodsmall, DPW, there appears to be a culvert near Steele St and there was some sort of drainage pipe and the system has failed. The talk of tying into the Town drainage system is of some concern because of the capacity currently. Investigation on the situation is being done. Kevin Harmen, 60 Brattle St, expressed that there are no drainage pipes on Brattle St. D Nyman asked how the Conservation Commission fits into this. M Scott said there are wetlands back there and may require permitting at some point. Also it had been brought up as a concern at the time that some work was done at the Tennis Courts several years ago. John Woodsmall provided his contact information to the homeowners for further discussion.

-Open Space and Rec. Plan – Public Forum at Trout Brook will be coming up and invite will be sent.

MINUTES

July 22, 2020

August 5, 2020

Both continued to June 2, 2021

The Commission discussed the deadline for submittal of information by applicants for meetings. They will have more discussion about this at the June 2, 2021 meeting.

Motion by L Boucher, Seconded by E Parent TO ADJOURN THE MAY 5, 2021 CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 11:26 PM. APPROVED BY VOTE 6-0-1.