

**HOLDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
1130 MAIN STREET, HOLDEN SENIOR CENTER
MINUTES
September 4, 2019**

Members Present: Robert Lowell, Michael Scott, Luke Boucher, Kenneth Strom, Anthony Costello, Cathy Doherty

Members Not Present: Dave Nyman

Others Present: Glenda Williamson -Conservation Agent; David Getman, Dan Crocker, DCR-DWSP; Tom Larson, Greenwood Estates.

Robert Lowell called meeting to order at 7:10pm.

NOTICE OF INTENT - DCR WEIR. Assessing Map 14, Parcel 2. DEP File# 183-0663. The construction of a water quality monitoring weir on an un-named intermittent stream. Site access is thru DCR Gate H-21 off Mason Road. David Getman/Jamie Carr, DCR.

G. Williamson read the Legal Ad into Record.

Dave Getman and Dan Crocker with the DCR were in attendance to present the project. Dan stated that the DCR is performing a long-term, paired watershed study on two forest sites. They are measuring water quality parameters and flow. He stated that they are having difficulty with the current monitoring location as the culverts upstream have a tendency to clog, decreasing flow and/or diverting flow around the current monitoring location. Dan stated that they are seeking approval from the Commission to install a water-quality monitoring weir just upstream of the existing monitoring location. The site is on an intermittent stream and goes dry every year. The weir is about 25-feet in width, made of plywood with a metal lip. The work will occur during the course of one or two days when the stream is dry. The weir will be set into a shallow trench filled with concrete to keep the base from moving. The pool will be 10 to 12-feet wide above the weir. Dave stated that construction will be done by hand and there is an existing access road close to the weir. All the painting and concrete mixing will be done at the location.

Dan stated that the weir will stay in place for 5 years post-harvest. The weir will help them to monitor water quality and water quantity over a longer time period. K. Strom asked the size of the drainage area. Dave Getman replied .28 square miles. Dave stated that they filed an application for a 401 water quality certification with the DEP. He said they met on-site the day before with DEP to review the on-site work and that they will have the 401 certification within the next few days. M. Scott asked if they would be placing rock below the structure to dissipate the water velocity. Dave stated yes. Dan stated that all of the elevations have been checked to ensure the water flows over the weir as opposed to going around it. No comments from the public.

Motion by M. Scott, Seconded by C. Doherty, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED, 6-0, TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AND TO ISSUE A STANDARD ORDER OF

CONDITIONS FOR DCR WATER QUALITY MONITORING WEIR ON AN INTERMITTENT STREAM. ORDERS ARE NOT TO BE ISSUED UNTIL THE COMMISSION RECEIVES AND REVIEWS THE 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION.

119 CHAPIN ROAD - Drainage Improvements - Peter Ferland, Sudbury Design Group

Peter Ferland with Sudbury Design Group was present to discuss the project. He showed the Commission the drainage details and photographs of the site. He gave a brief overview of the work to be done, stating that the bulk of the project is located outside of the 100-foot buffer area. He stated that the site is extremely wet and they need to add additional drainage structures to convey stormwater. They will be adding a terrace, stone walls, a gas fire pit, extending the front walkway and adding a 12' x 16' shed. Peter provided a description of the multiflow drainage system that they would install. The stone walls will include 18-inch perforated pipes on top to trap rainwater and direct it to catch basins. They will add three additional catch basins around the home and will direct stormwater to an existing drain line that crosses the driveway.

R. Lowell asked what kind of soils were on site. Peter stated that he did not know, but stated there was a high amount of iron as evidenced by the orange color of the standing water. R. Lowell stated that they will need a relief, they are adding a lot of water to a recharge structure. R. Lowell asked how they would design the system so that they are not causing additional scouring at the outlets. Peter stated that the current discharge pipe crossing the driveway is 4-inches and that they may need to increase the pipe size to reduce the flow. L. Boucher asked the location of the existing cross culvert. Peter indicated the location on the plan. L. Boucher stated that the existing pipe may not be able to handle the additional flow.

R. Lowell asked about the topography of the yard and the direction of the current flow. Peter stated that all of the water is collecting in swales and low spots in the yard. K. Strom stated that the septic system looked mounded up. L. Boucher asked about the elevation of the current septic system and the distance from the top of the septic system and the ponded area. Peter responded, approximately 6 feet and that they would not interfering with the septic system at all. L. Boucher expressed concerns over the depth to ground water under the catch basins and if they will be able to make the inverts work to overflow across to the existing pipe. He stated that the pipe may need to be lowered and the discharge point would then be closer to the wetland area.

R. Lowell stated that they would like to see a more specific detail on how the drainage would work in the vicinity of the resource area. He stated that they should look at how much flow they will be adding to the culvert and if they will have to do some scour protection on the outlet. R. Lowell stated that they needed to check the groundwater elevations at the catch basin locations to ensure they have adequate storage capacity.

R. Lowell asked if the Commission would like to see an official filing for the work to be performed. The Commission members discussed this and determined that they would have to receive and review the additional requested information on the drainage before making this determination.

R. Lowell asked if there was an open Order of Conditions on the property. G. Williamson stated that the Order for the home construction was thru a different applicant and that it had expired. M. Scott asked Peter to check the setback from the septic system to the adjacent drainage structure to ensure the work would not impact the existing septic.

The applicant agreed to provide the additional requested information at the Commission's October 2nd hearing.

ENFORCEMENT ORDER - 61 Manning Street. Assessing Map 78, Parcel 5, Unauthorized work in the 100-foot buffer of a resource area.

G. Williamson stated that the DPW drove by the site and noticed that the entire back yard had been cleared and that there was currently an excavator on the property behind the home. G. Williamson stated that she did a site inspection on August 22nd to determine if the tree clearing work was located within the 100-foot buffer zone. The homeowner provided photos of the property from 2017. There were no trees visible near the wetland in the photos. The owner told her that there were no trees removed from the 100-foot buffer and that the previous homeowner maintained a vegetable garden near the wetland.

G. Williamson stated that soil disturbance extended into the 25-foot no-disturb zone for a distance of approximately 15-feet. G. Williamson showed the Commission photos of the disturbance to the back yard and wetland edge. She stated that the applicant installed straw wattles along the 25-foot no-disturb zone as requested.

R. Lowell asked if the Commission would like to see restoration of some kind. The Commission agreed that for now, the homeowner should stabilize the soil within the 100-foot buffer. After the soils are stabilized, the Commission may require replanting within the 25-foot no-disturb zone and will require that a permanent demarcation (i.e. logs or boulders) be installed.

The Commission will revisit this item at their October 2nd hearing.

975 SALISBURY STREET - Holden DPW - Assessing Map 250, Parcel 38. Removal of planted pine trees at the DPW's water booster pumping station to increase cellular communication.

Ryan Mouradian, DPW's Superintendent of Water and Sewer, was present to discuss the work. He stated that the DPW owns an easement on the Holbrook property. The Holbrook property is permanently protected open space that the Town recently purchased. G. Williamson stated that the DPW easement is not mentioned in the Conservation Restriction (CR) for the Holbrook Property, but that the water booster pump station is actually on the CR. The DPW easement holds a water booster pumping station where the Town purchases water from the City of Worcester.

Ryan stated that the station was built in early 2000 and that there are three pumps that turn on and off based on the levels of the water tank located at Avery Road. He stated that there is a

cellular modem located at the water booster pumping station that communicates with the cellular modem at their Spring Street site. He stated that this location has a very poor reception with the receiving antennas. Due to the poor reception, the pumps are not turning on and off properly. He said the pumps would stop in the middle of the night and they would get low water alarms at the water tank site.

The DPW went thru an analysis of the cellular range in the area of the booster station. They upgraded the existing antennae at the booster station and he said that this helped increase the signal some.

Ryan stated that they would like to remove the 7 white pine trees that were planted when the booster station was built in early 2000. The trees on the pump station site are believed to be causing an interference with the cellular signal. He said that the trees don't appear to be that healthy and they would like to cut them flush and not remove the stumps. All of the pines are small; approximately 6-inch DHB. The water booster antennae points to a site off of Holden Street and the signal may also reach an antennae off Industrial Drive. He stated that he would be leaving the larger deciduous trees along the front of the site alone.

K. Strom asked about the location of the wetland in relation to the trees. G. Williamson stated that it's approximately 30 feet from the pine trees and adjacent to the newly constructed Holbrook parking area. The Commission asked Ryan if they would consider starting with the removal of only three trees and then come back in front of the Commission if they did not get increased reception. If they did not encounter an improved signal after the removal of three trees, they may be allowed to remove the additional 4 trees.

GREENWOOD ESTATES

Tom Larson with Martelli Construction was present to provide the monthly update. Tom stated that they have been working on the detention basins. Tom reviewed the plans with the Commission and provided an update for the status of each basin. Tom stated that they need to add a clay barrier to existing detention basin 1-5. Tom described the construction method for the addition of the barrier and stated that the clay barrier material has been approved and is stockpiled on site. Graves Engineering will be on site to inspect the material and locations for where the barrier will be installed. Tom stated that the detail for the bottom of the basin called for 6-inches of rip rap that would line the entire bottom of the basin. The Commission asked Tom to check the detail, they didn't think that this sounded correct. Tom asked how they would maintain the storage volume in the basin if the bottom elevation was increased. L. Boucher suggested that they decrease the amount of disturbed area contributing to the basin. R. Lowell stated that if there was a design change to Basin 1-5, they are required to submit a revised plan, details and a written narrative. L. Boucher stated that Quinn Engineering will have to review any changes and final plans in regard to the final construction of permanent Basin 1-5.

Tom Larson stated that Nick DiPilato is not doing any on-site utility work until the beginning of next week. He also stated that he received the final sign-off from DCR stating that the removal of sediments from the resource area down slope of Basin 1-5 has been sufficiently completed. DCR did an on-site inspection today and they were pleased with the clean-up work.

EAGLE LAKE

K. Strom and A. Costello abstained. G. Williamson stated that White Oak has informed her that the removal of debris from in front of the dam would not be possible. They can not get access to the debris as it is impossible to get heavy equipment down onto the edge of the Mill Pond. White Oak has reported to the Commission that leaving the debris in place would not have a negative impact on the structural integrity or downstream flows. G. Williamson stated that the beaver dam is still located between Mill Pond and Eagle Lake. Any discharges to Eagle Lake from the City of Worcester would not significantly impact the beaver dam or water levels in Mill Pond. The Commission determined that the beaver dam is to remain as is. G. Williamson asked if they would like to get input on the beaver dam from the DPW. The Commission did not feel that this was necessary right now. R. Lowell stated that the Office of Dam Safety does not get involved with beaver dams unless they are posing a risk to the structural integrity of a dam.

1567 MAIN STREET

G. Williamson stated that the homeowner has planted grass and shrubs in their back yard where trees had been removed in the MA Audubon easement. The Commission determined that the homeowner has done everything as requested and outlined in the enforcement order. The Commission agreed that the MA Audubon should take the lead on pursuing any additional requirements for restoration in their easement.

109 ARIZONA AVE.

G. Williamson stated that Mary Ann DiPinto, with Three Oaks Environmental has completed the majority of planting (herbaceous species) in the replication areas. Mary Ann is requesting that the Commission allows the remaining tree planting in the replication areas to occur in the Spring of 2020 as she was not able to obtain the trees early enough in the growing season. The Commission granted permission for the additional planting to occur in the spring.

80 CHAPIN ROAD (Lot 3)

G. Williamson stated that the house is under construction and the driveway span has been installed over the stream. She stated that she spoke with the contractor, Gary Smith, and he informed her that the work on the replication areas would begin next week.

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE - DEP File # 183-0654

95 Chapin Road, Assessing Map 208, Parcel 48. Amanda Malone. Construction of a fenced-in, 18'x36' in-ground pool with 800 square feet of stone decking on two sides.

G. Williamson stated that one of the conditions of the Order was that no pool water be discharged to the resource area. She stated that there is a blue rubber hose connected to the pool filter. The end of the hose is located on the edge of the resource area. There is another white pvc pipe near the pool that is a landscaping drain. She stated that she will contact the company that constructed the pool to ask what the purpose of the blue hose is. This item will be added to the Commission's October meeting agenda.

MINUTES

March 6, 2019; April 3, 2019; May 1, 2019

Motion by L. Boucher, Seconded by C. Doherty, it was VOTED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 6th 2019 CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AS CORRECTED BY A VOTE OF 6-0.

Motion by L. Boucher, Seconded by C. Doherty, it was VOTED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 3rd 2019 CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AS CORRECTED BY A VOTE OF 6-0.

Motion by R. Lowell, seconded by M. Scott, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 4th CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 8:45 PM.