

Sturbridge Conservation Commission

Approved December 18th, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 20th, 2018

6:00 PM Open Meeting – Quorum check

Present: Edward Goodwin
David Barnicle
Steve Halterman
Paul Zapun

Absent: Steven Chidester

Also Present: Rebecca Gendreau (RG), Conservation Agent; Ashley Piascik (AP), Administrative Assistant; Russell Jennings (RJ); Amber Howard (AH); Frank Bichieri (FB); Ann Sellew (AS); Keith Edmunds (KE); Tara Richards (TR); Joel Casaubon (JC); Ginne Roscioli (GR).

Committee Updates:

CPA: No meeting.
Trail Committee: No meeting.
Open Space Committee: None.
Lakes Advisory Committee: None.

Walk-ins

Public Hearings

6:15 **SZB Notice of Intent (Sturbridge Zoning Bylaw Section 4.04);** Douty Road ANR lot 5R; Construction of a single-family house driveway; Represented by Bertin Engineering, Inc., for applicant O'Connell, P.

Summary: FB represented on behalf of the applicant. A few revisions were made, subsequent to the last meeting in regard to the ANRAD. Brief discussion took place. Changes made to the driveways included revisions to the swale located along the driveway. Check dams added every 50 feet as well as a grass swale detail on the plan. Idea would be to create small settling pools on the way down the swale to infiltrate stormwater versus directing into the swale along Douty Road. Left the berm on the property line.

Comments:

- How will swale work from a 10 or 12 foot drop from the driveway?
- How much maintenance will the check dams require?
- Check dam will require maintenance and need clean out. Can add condition in OOCs.
- Long run and a lot of maintenance.
- Concern about maintenance, due to recent storms.
- The Conservation Commission is only reviewing this project under the Sturbridge Zoning Bylaw.

--Motion (DB): 2nd (SH) to close the public hearing, VOTE: AIF (4-0).

--Motion (DB): 2nd (SH) to approve the revised plan and the date that is listed on the plan with conditions in the OOC. VOTE: AIF (4-0).

6:30 **SZB Notice of Intent (Sturbridge Zoning Bylaw Section 4.04);** Douty Road ANR lot 6R; Construction of a single-family house driveway; Represented by Bertin Engineering, Inc., for applicant O'Connell, P.

Summary: FB stands by the same presentation for lot 5R.

Comments:

- Is the septic and the house within jurisdiction? Within the 8%, 500 feet? Yes.

--Motion (SH): 2nd (DB) to close the public hearing, VOTE: AIF (4-0).

--Motion (DB): 2nd (SH) move to approve the plan as submitted with OOC conditions discussed. VOTE: AIF (4-0).

Old Business

- 27 Ladd Road

Comments: The SCC requested the presence of property owner, etc. at the SCC meeting. Concerns with additional information received and wanted to go over any activities completed and proposed within jurisdictional areas in Sturbridge so there was a clear understanding. Russell Jennings and Amber Howard spoke on behalf of a letter that was sent to the property owner in which they were copied from the Conservation Department. This letter had addressed photos that were recently submitted to the Conservation Department by an abutter. These photos showed images of additional work and clearing that was performed on Ladd Road. The purpose of this meeting was to make them aware of the regulations, jurisdictional areas and need to file for activities. RJ stated that the town boundary line is located further west than shown by Ma GIS. RG stated that this Ma GIS can be off, however is the best information available and if they have information showing the town line then we can review that. Otherwise, the stream shown in Sturbridge and that area appears within Sturbridge. Also, reminded that there is a 200 foot buffer zone off in Sturbridge. The Conservation Commission stated their disposition and the discussion came to a close. Public documents can be viewed at the Sturbridge Conservation Department upon request.

- 272 Big Alum Road

Comments: RG provided an update. Received notification from Chapter 91 Waterways. Things have been put on hold with the dock from our last meeting. They are in their comment period at this time. The consultant does not anticipate that DEP, The Waterway Section, will have any concern with the cement block and removal of Bank. Discussed next steps with consultant to request amendment and move forward.

Signatures

Request for Certificate of Compliance

- DEP File #300-1011; 18 Tantasqua Shore Drive; Fazen, L.

Comments: Septic replacement that was reviewed this past year. Conducted a preconstruction meeting. More trees required to be removed than originally anticipated.

Signed.

- DEP File #300-716; 286 Big Alum Road; Casaubon, J.

Comments: FB representing the client. Photos were provided. The Agent provided a brief summary. Recently issued a partial to release a portion of the site not subject to the OOCs. The client is now requesting for a complete certificate of compliance. FB provided a site plan showing detail for previous drainage pipe to be removed. This was not shown on con com plan. Pipe has been removed. Drainage is on subject property. Photographs and other documentation previously provided on drainage installation and maintenance. Original mitigation plantings have died. Additional mitigation plantings recently installed. Varies from original plan, however site stabilized.

Signed.

--Motion (DB): 2nd (SH) move we approve the plan as submitted. VOTE: AIF (4-0).

- DEP File #300-555; 97 McGilpin Road; Matte, D.

Comments: Property is for sale, came up in title search that the OOC were never closed out. This was first permitted in 2003. The Agent provided a brief history of the property and permits the Conservation Department has issued and has on file.

Signed.

Request for Permit Extension

- DEP File #300-936; 81 Paradise Lane; Brauns, A.
Comments: Some stabilization near the driveway needs to be finalized. Most work appears to be completed. Erosion controls are still up. The permit expires now. Not likely that a three-year extension would be required. A year should be sufficient to wrap up project.
VOTE: AIF of 1-year extension 4-0.

Letter Permits

- Tree Removal Permit Application: 58-60 South Shore Drive; Godin, A.
Comments: Deemed hazardous tree, located about 130 feet from the water. Large limb recently fell on vehicle. Approved provided there is a 2:1 tree replacement (2 and ½ to 3 inch DHP). Replacement must be with trees, not with bushes.
VOTE: AIF 4-0.
- Wetland Bylaw Letter Permit: 20 Birch Street; Larochelle, P. Conversion of carport to garage.
Comments: Carport that the property owner would like to turn into the garage. No stock piling. There will be some disturbance to remove the asphalt within the footprint and replace with concrete. Limbing of two trees, requested by insurance company. VOTE: AIF 4-0.

Forest Cutting Plans

- 169 & 175 Arnold Road; Scherer, K.
Comments: SH performed a site visit with the forester. SH recommends that we accept this plan. Pass on to BOS. Minor excavation requested by entrance as runoff was diverted when forestry completed approx. 12 years ago. EG would like to see runoff area it before deciding on that. Agent was instructed to issue MEMO to Board of Selectmen that the Commission has no concerns with FCP.

Informal discussion:

- Complaint addressing activity at 31 South Shore was briefly discussed.
- 3 Ladd Rd. Was a violation. Not completing restoration. A letter was sent to 3 Ladd Road requesting an update on status of project. RG spoke to property owner and a landscaper on his behalf. Followed up with landscaper since then. Have not heard back from them since. Another letter will be sent requesting the property owner to attend an upcoming meeting.
- Reminder Wednesday is our public hearing on the SWB Regulation revisions at the Town Hall on Wednesday the 28th.

Adjourn

--Motion made by (PZ); 2nd by (SH) to adjourn at 7:21 PM.