

Sturbridge Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

Approved August 20, 2019

Present:

Ed Goodwin, Chairman
Steven Chidester, Vice-Chair
Steve Halterman
David Barnicle
Rebecca Gendreau, Conservation Agent

Absent:

Paul Zapun

Also Present:

Chad Maramo, 7 Blueberry Lane
Raoul Ricard, Cedar Lake Association
Mark Farrell, Green Hill Engineering
Wayne Grenier, 7 Cedar Pond Rd.
Scott Morrison, EcoTech, Inc.
Joe Kowlalski, Ganesh Tree

Chairman Goodwin called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Quorum Check - Confirmed

Committee Updates

- CPA: None
- Trails Committee: Celebration of Earth Day – Riverlands 46 in attendance
- Open Space Committee: N/A
- Lakes Advisory Committee: N/A

Approval of Minutes

March 19, 2019

Motion: To approve the March 19, 2019 meeting minutes as written. By: D. Barnicle

2nd: S. Halterman

Vote: All in Favor (4-0)

April 2, 2019

Motion: To approve the April 2, 2019 meeting minutes as written. By: S. Halterman

2nd: S. Chidester

Vote: 3-0-1 (D. Barnicle Abstained)

Walk-Ins

179 Main Street, Update and review of proposed plan to address stormwater management

Chad Maramo, of 7 Blueberry Lane, came before the Commission. R. Gendreau projected photos taken by C. Maramo of the water drainage from 179 Main Street that is eroding parts of his yard. C. Maramo gave explanation for each photo shown.

The Commission discussed the stormwater runoff situation and what next steps were needed to create a remedy. R. Gendreau stated that the Conservation office is working with 179 Main Street to address the stormwater issue.

The Commission and R. Gendreau discussed the erosion taking place on Blueberry Lane and the draft plan submitted by 179 Main Street.

D. Barnicle brought up that since the parking lot had been changed from gravel and grass to pavement, it should have oil/water separators.

R. Gendreau suggested they continue the discussion of 179 Main Street after the Cedar Lake status update and Public Hearing scheduled.

MA DOT Enforcement Order; Cedar Lake/MA Pike; Status update

Raoul Ricard came before the Commission and stated he was a representative from the Cedar Lake Association and that he has come before the Commission to give a status update on the Cedar Lake/MA Pike project. Stated that he had met with R. Gendreau and they went over the plans that were submitted by MA DOT to replace the swale but they need to determine if they need to wait until after the fall draw down is done or if it should be done ahead of time. The current swale is badly damaged and needs repairs.

R. Ricard stated that he believes they need to get validation from Conservation Commission that the first repair MA DOT did is actually holding up at the top of the hill and doesn't know if structure is holding and handling the run off efficiently. He also stated that the Association is become frustrated with the lack of movement from MA DOT on making the planned repairs on the North side of the drainage area. R. Gendreau stated that she has heard back from MA DOT and they will be moving forward with the plan that was previously presented to the Commission after the next draw down. The Commission was asked by R. Gendreau if they found it acceptable to have the Cedar Lake Association wait for the repairs to take place after the next draw down, though she did state that she thinks it would be easier for the repairs to take place before the next draw down. However, measures can be put in place to protect the lake if the Commission chose to have them perform the work now. If MA DOT waits to do the repairs after the next draw down it would be another six (6) months and more sediment would get into the resource area and will create more impacts.

R. Ricard stated that one of his main concerns is that if MA DOT keeps waiting to do the repairs everything will keep getting prolonged. S. Halterman stated that he thinks MA DOT can do the work before draw down by using a silt curtain.

The Commission and R. Ricard discussed next steps. R. Gendreau suggested that they do a site visit with MA DOT and their engineer to look at their plan but also to look at all the other issue items in the area. R. Gendreau and the Commission discussed upcoming site visits and notifying MA DOT regarding the North side.

Public Hearings

S. Chidester read the public hearing rules

6:15 Request for Determination of Applicability: 26 Birch Street; for the proposed 6' x 12' deck to be built attached to the existing shed; Freeland, S.

E. Goodwin read the agenda item and stated that the public hearing has postponed until the next meeting, May 7, 2019 at 6:15pm.

6:30 Notice of Intent: DEP #300-1031: 40 Goodrich; for the repair of a tight tank and proposed drilled well; Represented by Green Hill Engineering for applicant Gibson, C.

E. Goodwin read the agenda item: Notice of Intent. Mark Farrell of Green Hill Engineering came before the Commission and introduced himself.

Property on Leadmine Pond – Goodrich Road owners just recently bought the property and they want to bring the septic system into compliance and to put in a drilled well, currently they draw water from the lake. M. Farrell referred to site plans on the screen. Proposed to abandon the leach field and where the existing tank is put in a fiberglass insert with a pump and pump up to a holding tank which will be located close to the road. The location for the tank and pump was picked for its ease of access when installing. Tank is 12 feet long by 6 feet wide by 6 feet high. M. Farrell and the Commission discussed the tank and pump system. The Commission and M. Farrell discussed the installation of the tank, what excavation would need to be done to the property and if there are any other potential areas that tank could go.

Motion: To close the public hearing. By: D. Barnicle

2nd: S. Chidester

Vote: All in Favor (4-0)

Motion: To approve Notice of Intent; DEP #300-1031 at 40 Goodrich Road. By: D. Barnicle

2nd: S. Halterman

Vote: All in Favor (4-0)

6:45 Notice of Intent: DEP #300-1032: 5 Cedar Pond Road; for the installation of a new well to provide potable water supply for an existing single family home; Represented by Green Hill Engineering for applicant Darrin, D.

E. Goodwin read the agenda item: Notice of Intent. M. Farrell of Green Engineering came before the Commission and introduced the project and showed the plans. 5 Cedar Pond Rd. currently has a shallow well and they are having problems with contamination with bacteria in the summer months. There is no Town Water in that area so the owners would like to put in a drilled well. M. Farrell discussed the proposed location of the new well. D. Barnicle asked if they were planning on hooking the new well up to the old piping for the shallow well that is contaminated. M. Farrell stated that it would be all new piping but they may go through the same hookup to the house, it's up to the well drillers.

Wayne Grenier, of 7 Cedar Pond Rd, came before the Commission, and stated that they will probably be having the same fix to their well in the future. W. Grenier stated that his only concern is that their sewer tank is right on the border of 7 Cedar Pond and 5 Cedar Pond and doesn't know if that will have any impact on access, overflow, and runoff. M. Farrell stated that there shouldn't be

any runoff at all, stated that they will manage the flow while they are drilling so it won't overflow into any one's property.

R. Gendreau inquired as to how deep the well was going to be. M. Farrell stated that they will drill until they hit water so he is unsure how deep it will be at this time. The Commission and M. Farrell discussed well depths.

S. Chidester asked if any trees would be coming down in the process of putting in the well. M. Farrell stated that unfortunately an ornamental tree would be impacted because wouldn't be able to get through to do the installation.

R. Gendreau suggested they use a silt fence just in case of a blowout. The Commission discussed the use of a silt fence vs. a hay bale line and other precautions.

Motion: To close the public hearing. By: D. Barnicle

2nd: S. Chidester

Vote: All in Favor (4-0)

Motion: To approve Notice of Intent; DEP #300-1032 at 5 Cedar Pond Road as indicated with minor modifications made between Green Hill Engineering and the Conservation Agent. By: D. Barnicle

2nd: S. Halterman

Vote: All in Favor (4-0)

7:00 Request to Amend the Order of Conditions: DEP File #300-1021; to approve project revisions; Represented by EcoTec, Inc. for applicant, RV Management Services.

E. Goodwin read the request to amend the order of conditions; DEP File #300-1021.

Scott Morrison of EcoTec, Inc. came before the Commission and gave a summary of the changes that were made to the plans for DEP File #300-1021. The Board and S. Morrison discussed tree removal/shrubbery addition. Joe Kowlalski of Ganesh Tree stated that he is the arborist on site and discussed questions he had regarding which trees needed to be taken out.

The Board continued to discuss changes made to the plans regarding tree and shrub additions/removals.

R. Gendreau brought up erosion issues and inquired as to if they were erosion controls were repaired. Representatives from EcoTec stated that they were repaired.

S. Morrison continued to discuss changes made to the plans regarding the Commission's concerns after the site visit.

The Commission discussed Hemlock and whether or not to plant them because of infestation. The Board requested that the additional Hemlock plantings be swapped out with Balsam Fir or White Spruce.

S. Halterman and R. Gendreau brought up a sheen on the water coming from a pipe that was seen on their last site visit. S. Morrison stated that it wasn't an oil sheen but an iron sheen caused by microorganisms that break down the iron. R. Gendreau also brought up a fence that needed to be repaired.

The Commission and S. Morrison discussed putting down wood chips for stabilization.

S. Morrison discussed the utilities at each site and its arrangement.

R. Gendreau discussed that going forward the Conservation Commission is going to need weekly reports and inspections as the project progresses and that all of the contractors are aware that they are also liable if anything goes wrong.

Consensus Vote: For R. Gendreau to write up the removal of the enforcement order. By: E. Goodwin

Vote: All in Favor (4-0)

R. Gendreau discussed next steps with S. Morrison.

Motion: To close the public hearing. By: E. Goodwin

2nd: D. Barnicle

Vote: All in Favor (4-0)

Motion: To approve request to amend. By: E. Goodwin, 2nd by D. Barnicle

Vote: All in Favor (4-0)

Walk In's continued

179 Main Street, Update and review of proposed plan to address stormwater management – Continued

The Commission and R. Gendreau discussed the next steps regarding the parking lot and catch basins behind 179 Main Street.

D. Barnicle brought up the roof run off and inquired as to why the Commission isn't asking for three separate dry wells.

The Commission discussed erosion in the area and location of a possible discharge pipe.

The Commission and R. Gendreau decided on next steps regarding the long term fix for the parking lot run off along with a temporary solution for the residents of Blueberry Lane that are being impacted by the water erosion.

Letter Permits

Tree Removal Permit Application: 172 Lane 7; Grabowski, G.

R. Gendreau stated that they did a site visit, there are a total of 8 trees, one is in East Brookfield, and two fallen trees. One Pine, one Oak, four tall Pines and one large Oak (to be pruned).

Consensus Vote: To approve tree removal permit for 172 Lane 7; Grabowski, G. By: E. Goodwin

Vote: All in Favor (4-0)

Tree Removal Permit Application: 48 Farquhar Rd; Martel, G.

R. Gendreau stated that they did a site visit, there are 4 Pines and the owner is offering to plant 4 Eastern Red Cedar trees, 4 Service Berries, 4 Winter Berries, where the trees will be taken down.

Consensus Vote: To approve the tree removal permit for 48 Farquhar Rd; Martel, G with owners replanting plan in place. By: D. Barnicle

Vote: All in Favor (4-0)

Wetland Bylaw Letter Permit Application: 318 The Trail; The Trail at Big Alum Lake Association

R. Gendreau stated that the Letter Permit for 318 The Trail includes a tree removal of a Hemlock and the Lake Association is asking for a permit to bring in a truckload of beach sand. The Letter permit is also requesting the removal of one White Birch tree located near the temporary dock.

Consensus Vote: To approve the Letter Permit for 318 The Trail; The Trail at Big Alum Lake Association. By: E. Goodwin
Vote: All in Favor (4-0)

Signatures

Orders of Conditions; DEP File #300-1030; 268 Big Alum Road; McGrath, M.

Amended Orders of Conditions; DEP File #300-0953; 272 Big Alum Road; Howard, J.

The Commission signed the Orders of Conditions DEP File #300-1030 and Amended Orders of Conditions DEP File #300-0953.

New Business

Emergency Authorization

R. Gendreau explained that there was a diesel spill March 30, 2019 near the Quinebaug River on Rt. 84. The DEP estimated that anywhere from 50 to 100 gallons of diesel spilled in the area. The DEP did an initial clean up when the spill occurred. The DEP wants to go back in about a week with a plan to removal soil and test samples but they need the authorization from the Conservation Commission.

Consensus Vote: To give authorization to the DEP to removal soil from contaminated area.
By: E. Goodwin
Vote: All in Favor (4-0)

Agent Report

241 & 245 Main Street; Moran, C.; Status update

R. Gendreau gave an update regarding the tank removal chemical study results and stated that it appears that the property has changed ownership. New owners would be liable to finish the project.

Old Business

Hamilton Rod and Gun Club/Rampco, 24 Hamilton Road; Status update

R. Gendreau stated that she had reached out to Hamilton Rod and Gun/RAMPCO looking for an update regarding have their engineer look at changing the spillway outlet basin. Hamilton is having a site visit within the next week and the Commission will have an update soon.

MA DOT; Quinebaug River/Rt. 20; Status update

R. Gendreau stated that it doesn't look the MA DOT hasn't cleaned up the catch basins that they agreed to clean. R. Gendreau stated she will check in with them.
The Commission discussed the pipes in the Quinebaug River area.

QQLA Alum Treatment Letter of Support

R. Gendreau stated that the QQLA is looking for a letter, and she told them a draft has been made of the letter and asked if the Commission would approve the draft letter.

Consensus Vote: To approve Alum Treatment Letter of Support for the QQLA. By: E. Goodwin
Vote: All in Favor (4-0)

The Commission decided to amend a line in the letter.

New Business/Correspondence

43 & 44 Allen Road; Holdcroft, D.; Zoning Enforcement Violation & Cease and Desist Letter

R. Gendreau stated that they were informed of a dumping area on Allen Road. On April 10, N. Burlingame issued a cease and desist letter to 43 and 44 Allen Road regarding operating a junk yard and having an unsafe building on one of the properties. R. Gendreau pulled up the GIS map of the properties and discussed the area with the Commission. During the site visit the week before the owner signed the cease and desist letters and agreed to work on cleaning up the area. R. Gendreau discussed writing a letter to the property owner regarding receiving a plan from him on his cleanup efforts and letting him know that Conservation will be enforcing the cleanup.

R. Gendreau stated that the Plimpton property was supposed to have asbestos removed off the shed on April 16, 2019, and that the next site visit is scheduled April 30, 2019.

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn. By: S. Chidester

2nd: S. Halterman

Vote: All in Favor (4-0)

Adjourned at 9:30 PM

Minutes prepared by: Jeneé Lacy