

Approved

Conservation Commission Minutes – February 18, 2020
at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers on the Second Floor of the Municipal Office Building,
66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts

Attendees:

Present: Marilyn MacDonald, Chair; Harry Bailey, Vice-Chair; Eileen Prisco, Member, Steven Solbo, Environmental Planner, Jasmin Farinacci, Executive Assistant

6:30pm – Old Business

- Notice of Intent – South Street **(Michael J. Koska)**

Present before the Commission: No one is present at this time

MOTION: Member Prisco moves to continue the public hearing until March 12, 2020 pending approval from Michael J. Koska. Member Bailey seconds.

VOTE: (3-0-0)

- Notice of Intent – 280 South Street **(ECR)**

Present before the Commission: Cameron Larson, ECR

Mr. Larson states they have revised the plan for a single-family home lot. The owner owns horses on the property. There is a section of upland on the lot that is separated by Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW). They are proposing to provide access to the upland area through the wetlands. It was initially proposed to provide a gravel path through the wetland with a 1:1 replication area. It was discussed to utilize timber mats in lieu of a gravel path for access through the wetlands. The timber mats would be proposed to be stacked and skewed to allow flow of the water. There is still a 1:1 wetland replication proposed to mitigate impacts to the BVW.

Chair MacDonald states she has been to the site and asks Agent Solbo what is allowed under their jurisdiction. Agent Solbo states that he had recommended the timber mats to allow for better flow of the water through the wetlands. Agent Solbo states that the large issue previously was the use of gravel in the wetland. The timber mats can be used as a temporary or permanent solution. The mats can be moved, washed or replaced. Agent Solbo states he would like to request that if the mats will be moved or replaced to inform the Commission, so they are aware and asks if the Commission has any other Special Conditions.

Member Bailey, Prisco, and Chair MacDonald state that they do not have any further comments or concerns with the project. Agent Solbo recommends approving this project with the additional Special Condition to have a pre-site meeting prior to the laying of the mats and that the Agent be present for the installation of the mats.

Present before the Board: Eileen Hiney, 316 South Street

Ms. Hiney asks about where the wetland replication will be performed.

Agent Solbo states that in accordance with the state law the replication must take place close to the site where the work will be done. If you look at the rear, or east side of the site, there is a low spot on the property where most of the mitigation is being proposed. Ms. Hiney reviews the plans presented by ECR. Ms. Hiney asks what the replication entails. Agent Solbo states that the plants to be utilized will be placed in-kind via hand planting so there will not be a large disturbance or digging. Ms. Hiney asks if there are wetland soils. Agent Solbo states the soils are wetland soils, due to the grade it is currently not wet. Agent Solbo states that the mitigation is a good gesture on the part of the applicant as this is a temporary use. Ms. Hiney asks what the impact for timber mats are to the vegetation and the frogs in the area. Agent Solbo does not see this impacting any frogs or mating as they will still be able to breed and get through the timber mats. Agent Solbo states the main concern for the applicant is the safety of the horses so they don't get stuck to the mud. If the mats become a problem they could always address it as an enforcement, although he does not see that becoming an issue.

Chair MacDonald recommends having a follow-up within a year to see the impact of the mats.

Approved

Ms. Hiney asks what the size of the mats are proposed to be. Mr. Larson states they are proposed to be 12" x 12". Agent Solbo states that they are essentially made of wood and will potentially break down over time.

MOTION: Member Prisco moves to close the public hearing. Member Bailey seconds.

VOTE: (3-0-0)

MOTION: Member Prisco moves to approve the Notice of Intent with the additional Special Conditions that were discussed during the hearing. Member Bailey seconds.

VOTE: (3-0-0)

6:30pm – New Business

- Notice of Intent – Holly Lane **(Comm. Of MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife)**

Present before the Commission: No one is present at this time

The hearing is not opened at this time.

- Request for Determination of Applicability – 305 Black Mallard Road **(Collins Engineering)**

Present before the Commission: No one is present at this time

The hearing cannot be opened due to the lack of posting of the legal ad. The applicant will have to re-file.

- Request for Determination – Elm Street **(Merrill Engineers and Land Surveyors)**

The applicant did not send notification to abutters. The applicant will have to re-file.

6:30pm – Conservation Commission Business

- Other Business: As deemed appropriate by the Commission
- Certificate of Compliance – 85 Colonial Post Drive **(Silva Engineering Associates)**

Agent Solbo states he has been to the site and it is an older project that never received a Certificate previously and they are in compliance.

MOTION: Member Prisco moves to issue a Certificate of Compliance. Member Bailey seconds.

VOTE: (3-0-0)

- Notice of Intent – 10 Stonehill Lane **(Silva Engineering Associates)**

This item was closed previously.

MOTION: Member Prisco moves to approve the Order of Conditions with standard conditions. Member Bailey seconds.

VOTE: (3-0-0)

- Mosquito Control – Near 1300 Vernon Street

There is proposed to be light clean-up of the wetland, including log removal and ensuring natural debris does not back-up the natural water flow. This was a courtesy to inform the

Present before the Commission: Art Chamile

Approved

Mr. Chamile gives the Commission an overview of an existing application before the Board of Appeals stating that Snows Brook has been handling. Mr. Chamile states the current owner has hired mosquito control to go out and clean up the stream. Mr. Chamile states they would like to support any mosquito mitigation at all possible.

- ENF – Bridgewater Comprehensive Wastewater Treatment Plan (**Weston & Sampson**)

There is a notification of a public hearing regarding the wastewater treatment plant if the Commission would like to review them.

- Review of Meeting Minutes from January 23, 2020 and February 6, 2020

MOTION: Member Prisco moves to approve the minutes of January 23, 2020 and February 6, 2020. Member Bailey seconds.

VOTE: (3-0-0)

MOTION: Member Prisco moves to adjourn the public hearing. Member Bailey seconds.

VOTE: (3-0-0)

DRAFT