

Weston Conservation Commission - Public Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2020
Approved: September 22, 2020

Members Participating Joseph Berman (Chair), Alison Barlow (arrived at 7:50pm), Cynthia Chapra, Josh Feinblum, Rees Tulloss, Ellen Freeman Roth
Members Absent Rebecca Loveys
Conservation Staff: Michele Grzenda

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this Conservation Commission meeting was conducted via remote participation using Zoom.com. The Town provided access to such meeting via a link to call in. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted, but every effort was made to ensure that the public could adequately access the proceedings.

7:30 p.m. Request for Minor Plan Change - Merriam St. Sidewalk (337-1294)

The work on the Merriam street sidewalk is progressing. A portion of this sidewalk will be in the form of a raised 6-foot wide boardwalk to minimize impacts to wetland resource areas. The Contractor has suggested the installation of a 12-foot x 12-foot wide platform extension near Cherry Brook to allow visitors to stop and enjoy the wetland. The Agent and DPW Engineer performed a site visit last week and it was their opinion that a 6-foot x 12-foot extension could be added which will not adversely impact the stream channel, wetland, or wetland vegetation. Two stick-in flags were placed in the field showing the preferred location of the overlook. The extension will require only 2 additional 3-inch diameter helical piers. All work will occur from the upland portion of the work area. Motion by Ellen Freeman Roth to approve the 6-foot x 12-foot boardwalk extension; seconded by Josh Feinblum; Roll Call Vote taken: unanimous. Special conditions, prior to the placement of the overlook, the contractor shall schedule a site visit with the Agent to confirm exact location and review erosion controls; A revised sketch showing the location of the overlooks shall be submitted to the conservation agent prior to construction.

7:38 p.m. Newton Street Drainage Project (DEP# 337-1387); Fogg S. (Weston DPW)

The DPW is proposing to install drainage on Newton Street to reduce the drainage issues and road flooding in the roadway in front of 83 & 85 Newton Street. Currently, there are no catch basins or other drainage in this area of Doublet Hill Road and Newton Street. The untreated stormwater runoff from Doublet Hill Road and the section of Newton Street south of Doublet Hill Road currently flows uncontrolled to a low point in the road and a low point just off the road between 75 and 85 Newton Street and floods the road in this area. DPW received an OOC in August for the installation of a stormwater drainage system to capture stormwater flowing off Doublet Hill Road, at the intersection with Newton Street and direct that to a new outfall along the MWRA property to the south. This NOI will handle the stormwater flow captured north of the intersection of Doublet Hill Road and Newton Street and direct it to a new outfall on 83 Newton Street property.

The project involves installing several new deep sump catch basins with hoods. The deep sumps catch basins will provide TSS removal while the hoods will prevent debris, oil, and floatables from flowing from the catch basin. Collected stormwater will then be directed to a water quality unit, the Contech-CDS Unit, to provide additional water quality treatment before discharging onto a rip rap apron protected area to prevent erosion. Approximately 45 linear feet of 12-inch reinforced concrete pipe, a flared end section, and a 6'x10 foot rip rap apron are proposed to be located within the 100-buffer zone in a wooded grassy area at the northeast corner of 83 Newton Street. The limit of work will remain outside the 25-foot No Disturb Zone (NDZ). A majority of the proposed work will occur within the paved right-of-way and a paved driveway.

During construction, erosion controls will be placed along the edge of Newton Street where the new drainage will be installed in the road where needed, along the shared driveway for 83 and 85 Newton Street, and surrounding the outfall work located in and near the 100-foot buffer zone area.

Work will be occurring on the private properties of 83 and 85 Newton Street. Both landowners are aware this NOI was filed and the DPW are working on securing easements from these landowners.

Motion by Cynthia Chapra to close the hearing an issue an Order of Conditions approving the project; seconded by Rees Tulloss; roll call vote: each member responded Aye

7:45 p.m. Admin. Matters -

1. Motion by Josh Feinblum to approve the 8/25/20 Con Com minutes; seconded Rees Tulloss; vote roll call vote: each member responded Aye.
2. Update on Dogs and Leash Order - Commercial Dog walker, Kimberly Newton, requested the town to consider making some parks open to commercial dog walkers for more expanded off-leash hours during Covid-19 Leash Order. Ms. Newton also requested a refund to her commercial dog walking license due to lack of use during Covid-19. Joseph Berman suggested deferring this to the Select Board since the Commercial Dog Walking Fees fall under the Select Board's Dog Walking Regulations. Cynthia Chapra expressed concern about commercial dog walking in town because one of her dogs has been attacked by an off-leash commercial dog walker.
3. Request to perform soil test pits at 390 Highland Street – The Commission reviewed a memo prepared by GZA dated 9-8-20 with an attached plan/sketch dated 8/31/20. Kimberly Degutis from GZA requested the Commission allow GZA to proceed with subsurface soil investigations at 380 Highland Street. It was Ms. Degutis's opinion that the soil testing is allowed under the following exemption: 310 CMR 10.02(2)b(2)g which states: "Activities that are temporary in nature, have negligible impacts, and are necessary for planning and design purposes (e.g. exploratory boring, sediment sampling). No access or work will occur in wetland resource areas. Motion by Rees Tulloss to consider the type of soil investigation to be allowed under the provision discussed; seconded by Josh Feinblum; Roll Call Vote taken: unanimous. The Commission recommended that GZA have erosion controls onsite to be used if any land within the buffer zone will remain unstabilized overnight.

8:00 p.m. Request for Determination of Applicability; 83 Woodchester Drive, R. Bickford

The Applicant filed this Request for Determination of Applicability the installation of a new septic tank, pump chamber, and 16'x35' pressure dosed leaching field. Additionally, the components of the existing septic system will be abandoned. The Bordering Vegetated Wetland line shown on the plans was taken from the Weston GIS maps and depicted as being across the street from 83 Woodchester Drive. The new septic system and components will be installed located within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to a BVW with the closest work occurring approximately 70 feet from the edge of the wetland line. Abandoning the existing system will include pumping out the contents of the existing septic tank and d-boxes, rupturing their bottoms and filling them with clean sand or other material approved by the BOH. The existing sewer service for the home is located in front of the house so it possible that all or some part of the existing septic system is located within the 100-foot buffer zone area. The "tie-in" point to the existing house service will occur approximately 93 feet from the edge of the BVW.

The applicant proposes the installation of a temporary 14' wide stone construction access directly off the street to the work area, approximately 25 linear feet in length. Sedimentation and erosion control in the form of "embedded silt fence" is proposed along the frontage of the property within the work zone area

and a temporary erosion control straw wattle is proposed to be installed along the end of the construction access at the end of each day. Motion by cc to issue a Negative Determination #3; seconded by Josh Feinblum; roll call vote: each member responded Aye

8:10 p.m. Notice of Intent: Weston Golf Club (DEP# 337-1385); M. DeAvilla (Course Manager), Bill Doyle; Doyle Engineering; Dave Burke, Wetland Scientist (Cynthia Chapra recused herself as she is a direct abutter)

The Applicant has filed this Notice of Intent for the removal and replacement of the existing practice green located south of the driving range. The proposed project is partially located in the area of the existing practice green as well as in the existing gravel parking area for the practice green and the old storage bins. A wetlands delineation was completed for the project by David Burke, a wetlands resource specialist. The project will also include the removal of two sand traps or bunkers that are currently located partially within the 25' NDZ. Overall, most of the activities associated with this project will occur within the 25-foot NDZ and 100-foot Buffer Zone to a BVW.

The new practice green will have a soil and planting cross section of good quality well drained materials that promote infiltration, including a subsurface drainage system composed of 4-inch perforated ADS piping. After removal of the sand traps/bunkers, a small strip of existing practice green will be restored to natural grasses and vegetation similar to what currently exists at the bank of the pond. The net result of these project improvements is a reduction of impervious area and increase in infiltration. Another benefit of the proposed project is that there will no longer be parking or materials handling located in close proximity to the resource area. During construction, an erosion control barrier is proposed around the entire project area and street sweeping will be provided "as needed" at the end of each day of construction. The small strip of restored buffer may be mowed annually to promote meadow grasses and reduce invasive species invasion.

Cambridge Water Dept. has reviewed the proposal and does not have any objections. Motion by Rees Tulloss to close the hearing and issue an OOC approving the project; seconded by Alison Barlow; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

8:30 p.m. Notice of Intent: 576 North Avenue (DEP# 337-1386); Robert Gemma, MetroWest Engineering

The Applicant has submitted a Notice of Intent for the creation of a 6-lot subdivision and the construction of a private roadway with associated vegetation clearing, grading, and stormwater management systems at 0 and 576 North Ave. The proposed roadway will be outside the 100-foot Buffer to a BVW. The roadways proposed stormwater management system consists a subsurface infiltration system and overflow level spreader that will provide rainfall recharge of the new road. The proposed infiltration system will be located beneath the road pavement and outside the 100-foot buffer zone. The overflow level spreader for the infiltration system will be located within the 100-foot Buffer Zone of "Parcel B". Approximately 98 square feet of new impervious area will be located within the 100-foot Buffer Zone. In addition, grading will occur between the 50'-100' buffer zone area. There is no alteration proposed within the 25-foot No Disturb Zone. Sedimentation and erosion controls are proposed for the duration of the project.

The infiltration system, as well as all stormwater management devices will be maintained in accordance with the submitted Operations and Maintenance Plan (OMP). This includes annual inspections and sediment removal. The OMP has been closely coordinated with the City of Cambridge to protect Cambridge water supply. This project was reviewed on behalf of the Planning Board by MetroWest Engineering, Inc. In a letter dated 9/3/2020, Robert Gemma, P.E. has indicated that stormwater discharges to the wetland will not be increased by this project. David Conway, from Nitsch engineering

has reviewed the stormwater design for the planning board; and the project as designed complies with the stormwater management standards

Cambridge Water Department has reviewed the project and requested changes to the snow and ice management. MetroWest has made those changes and submitted a revised O&M plan reflecting that. Motion by Cynthia Chapra to close the hearing an issue an Order of Conditions approving the project; seconded by Josh Feinblum; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

9:08 p.m. Cont. Notice of Intent: 71 Concord Road; A. Mei

The Applicant has requested a continuance. Motion by Josh Feinblum to continue the hearing to September 22, 2020 at 8:15 p.m.; seconded by Ellen Freeman Roth; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

9:09 p.m. Minor Plan Change: 139 Hickory Road (DEP# 337-1382); M. Starrett

The Applicant has requested a Minor Plan Change to the Order of Conditions issued on 8/20/2020. The revised plan shows the addition of a foundation drain extending from the house discharging just outside the wetland area within the No Disturb Zone. The addition of this foundation drain was a requirement of the Building Department. In order for the foundation drain to flow by gravity, it must end at a lower elevation resulting in its placement within the NDZ. This work will result in approximately 120 SF of temporary alteration in the 25' NDZ, with approximately 40 SF of permanent alteration. The outfall apron will be approximately 2' from the wetland edge.

The Applicant has indicated that before commencement of work for the foundation drain a site inspection shall be requested and completed by the Conservation Agent to confirm area of work. This area will be staked out for inspection and approval. Motion by Cynthia Chapra to approve this as a minor plan change; seconded by Ellen Freeman Roth; Roll Call Vote taken: unanimous.

9:20 p.m. Admin. Matters

1. The Agent provided the Land Management Updates on Knotweed Removal Project, Legacy Trail construction, and Louisa's Wall damage
2. Request for Clarification on Det. Of Applicability issued to Keolis on 9-1-20 – FDC Engineers writes: "At the meeting on 8/25, the commission stated that no NOI would be required for this RDA. Please consider this a formal request to add narrative under the positive 2a determination that no NOI is required. Additionally, we would like to request that you modify WPA form 2 to include a negative 5 determination citing 310 CMR 10.58(6)(e) and 10.03(6)(b), as you did in 2016. It was the Commission's opinion the activities proposed in this RDA was different than what was proposed in 2016 and therefore, a positive 2 was appropriate. However for work which involves the application of herbicides in the buffer zone and Riverfront Area, the language in 310 CMR 10.58(6)(e) and 10.03(6)(b) allows for those activities to occur. Keolis/MBTA is required to file a Notice of Intent for any activity other than the use of herbicides within the buffer zones and Riverfront.
3. Next Conservation Commission Meeting: Sept. 22, 2020

Meeting adjourned on 9:36pm