

Conservation Commission
March 15, 2004
Special Meeting/Continuation of Hearing
Scantic Meadows

MINUTES

Members present: Bonnie Geromini, Michael Gerrard, Sheila Thompson. Associate member present: Joe Savoie. Members absent: R. Gouvan, Kim Desmarais.

Also present: Dana Pixley, Hampden Highway Dept., Ed Speight, Peter Levesque, Robert Cafarelli, Attorney Fratar, Eddie Turnberg, Duane Mosier, Douglas Farmer, Michael F Doyle, Patrick C. Garner.

7:10 p.m. – Hearing called to order

7:12 p.m.

– Introduction of Patrick Garner of Patrick C. Garner Company, Inc. including a listing of his professional credentials. Attorney Fratar questioned use of P. Garner Company rather than Tighe & Bond. Response was: Conservation Commission felt this was a significant undertaking, a number of issues had been raised by abutters at previous hearing and that we felt strongly, we would like to have a fresh set of eyes review the Notice of Intent, which had been submitted. Our actions were taken out of concern for all parties involved, the builder, the town, the abutters and the future homeowners. The next issue to be brought up by Attorney Fratar was the matter of insurance. Mr. Garner assured the meeting, that he did in fact carry his own medical insurance. Liability Insurance appears to be the issue. Mr. Garner was then requested to present his preliminary report: NOI is not inclusive of Hampden by-law, National Heritage reference cited is outdated drainage System being proposed requires significant maintenance to provide environmentally adequate performance, this refers to inspections, cleaning and reliable street sweeping schedules. Mr. Garner noted need for improved flagging on site. Need for Commission to walk site in April. An area of the site, which may be subject to flooding, is not noted in plan. Drainage calculations appear to be inadequate. Drainage system was further addressed: has been in use in Massachusetts for many years, successfully. This system, however, is not appropriate for this site. The perc rate is too fast to provide adequate filtration; remedies are available but would result in saturation of the area. The Commonwealth of MA. does not allow any system within 100 ft of standing body of water; some parts of the system fall within that 100 foot restriction. The farm pond qualifies as a standing body of water. Dana Pixley was asked to comment on the matter of maintenance. No monthly inspections, when money is available – annual inspection/ clean every 3 – 4 years no need to be cleaned. Mr. Garner: Although this system is dependable there is a 70% failure rate within 20-30years, because of maintenance issues. When asked number of basins cleaned by town in 2003 Mr. Pixley responded, zero, until December when 13 were cleaned because of problems having arisen. There are presently in town over 700 basins, each year 200 should be cleaned. B. Geromini questioned the soil infiltration rate, 2.4 inches per hour, referral made to Stormwater Handbook Regulations, the infiltration rate under the present proposal will significantly exceed rate allowed by state. Civil Eng. for the project Ed Cafarelli noted best results could be achieved by direct discharge of clean road water into pond, where nothing is living anyway. When questioned on some points he had raised, Mr. Garner referred to The Stormwater Handbook and updated National Heritage maps.

Questions were raised by Mr. Levesque and Mr. Cafarelli. An agreement was tentatively reached on allowing Mr. Garner access to the property once the issue of liability insurance was resolved. When asked, Mr. Mosier professed to no knowledge regarding this and that it would have to be asked of Mr. Martel, the Town Counsel. Mr. Fratar agreed to check with Mr. Martel. Contingent upon cooperation of all involved, Mr. Garner hoped to schedule a thorough site visit the first full week in April, thereby allowing a final and complete report to be presented in late April.

Motion was made to continue this hearing on April 28 at 7:00p.m. Motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

8:42 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by B. Geromini, seconded by S. Thompson and carried.

Respectfully submitted

Sheila Thompson