

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

August 3, 2005

Approved Sept. 21, 2005

REGULAR MEETING:

Meeting opened at 7:03.

Present: Charlie Schmitt, Pat Cote, Bonnie Geromini, and Phil Grant

-Jeffrey Liquori came in to express his interest in becoming a member of the Conservation Commission. He provided background information and stated that he has always had an interest in conservation issues. Charlie thanked him for coming in.

Charlie Schmitt asked if all were in favor of forwarding recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. All were in favor.

-Charlie requested input as to what the membership size should be? Bonnie Geromini responded they had found when there were seven members, it worked well and gave some flexibility for quorums at meetings.

-Gustafson, South Road- Mr. Gustafson has signed letter agreeing to the conditions for removal of fill from his property.

-Charlie Schmitt reported on meeting with Carmine Angeloni, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Forest Cutting Notice of Intent plans- Notification is to come to the Commission either by Certified Mail or hand delivered. Once received, a site visit must be done to determine the presence of resource areas. Carmine is then notified of findings. If we received approvals without previous receipt of application, notification is given to Carmine in which case he will suspend processing of Cutting Plans. We have 10 business days to notify Carmine of non-receipt.

-Charlie has looked over the three most recent ones and the most sensitive one is John Jackopsis Rocky Dundee Road. Michael Bergeron, licensed timber harvester, was contacted and he was aware of wetland and its perimeters. He will work with Conservation Commission in furnishing additional information and allowing us to visit site.

-Persaud, South Ridge- Charlie has alerted them to the compromising of silt fence. They have multiple silt fences and they have extended past what they were required too. Pete Levesques has not responded to calls from Charlie. Persauds will be contacted by Charlie that they need to correct the situation. Persauds claim they are getting run-off from across the street. Charlie there 4 or 5 days ago and runoff is piling up. Site visit to be set up.

-Shadowoods, Bennet Road- Pete Levesque asked for a continuation of Public Meeting until a feasibility study could be done. It has been several months now and a note to Mr. Levesque asking what their intentions are and that Commission cannot keep it open for an indefinite length of time. They will have to let us know as soon as possible.

7:15- Phil & Carla Grant, 123 South Road-Enforcement Order -Phil Grant recused himself. A response from Robert McCollum was received and read to the Commission members by Charlie Schmitt. After conducting an inspection of the property, the Department concluded that there has been no significant harm to the environment as a result of the cutting of Russian Olive at the site. Also, prior to any additional cutting of brush within the RFA at the

site the Grants should file a Request for Determination of Applicability or Notice of Intent with the Conservation Commission. The Commission had a site visit in December, 2004 and have been waiting for a response from the DEP since that time. Russian olive is an invasive species, and photos of the property show that it was kept as a lawn and meadow. Enforcement order was issued on November 21, 2003. Charlie Schmitt thinks that a Notice of Intent is not necessary and that a Request for Determination would be adequate. Charlie Schmitt asked if the intent is to remove the Russian Olive completely. Phil Grant responded the plant has multiple roots and would like cut it back at the very base of the plant so that no erosion will take place. Closer to the stream is a multiflora rose to be left there.

Charlie Schmitt made motion to have enforcement order rescinded. Voted unanimously to approve motion. Voting yes: Charlie Schmitt, Pat Cote. Not voting: Bonnie Geromini.

Chapin Road Dam- John Flynn has spoken with Charlie Schmitt in regards to the broken dam and silt filling in the Scantic River. Monies to correct situation may be available through a Community Development grant. Charlie Schmitt to speak with Gary Weiner.

131Stony Hill Road- Charlie Schmitt read letter from the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP). Based on a review of information, the NHESP has determined that this project is located within actual habitat of rare wildlife species. Based on this information, the project activity may have an adverse impact on the actual habitat of the endangered species. The NHESP is requiring additional information to continue their review of the proposal. Additional information needed is: 1. Photographs of the existing conditions on the property; 2. Final plans showing existing and proposed grades for the project; 3. Final plans showing the existing tree-line and any large trees on the property.

Stony Hill & Allen Street - Tall Pines - Charlie Schmitt read letter from the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP). Based on a review of information, the NHESP has determined that this project is located **within actual habitat** of state-protected rare wildlife species. They also determined that this project, as currently proposed has the potential to adversely affect the actual Resource Area habitat of a rare wildlife species. They also find that as currently proposed, the project has the potential to result in a "take" of endangered species. Further review is necessary before a final determination can be made.

8:03 pm – Continuation of Public Meeting for 131 Stony Hill Road –Pete Levesque detailed the property lines and resource areas. Any lot with a substantial wetland needs to have a certain percentage of upland within the wetland to make it a building lot. Pete Levesque not sure what the percentage is but will find out. Topography grades are in a second exhibit and will be provided at the next meeting. George Logan, Rema Associates has done a site with Pete Levesque to look at parcel. Commission is awaiting his findings. Hearing continued indefinitely. All approved. Voting yes: Charlie Schmitt, Phil Grant, Pat Cote and Bonnie Geromini. No votes: None

8:15 pm – Continuation of Public Meeting for Tall Pines, Stony Hill & Allen Street – Pete Levesque detailed the property lines and borders of wetlands which consists of 32 acres of land, with isolated wetlands and no 100 foot buffer, subjective to flooding. Jurisdiction is kind of tricky in relation to this property. An isolated wetland as defined by Hampden Wetland By-law has to have a 100 foot buffer zone. Isolated wetland state law does not have jurisdiction over this property. Hampden's by-laws are stronger than state laws and the developer is adhering to Hampden's Wetland By-laws.

Charlie Schmitt asked if state has jurisdiction of all work done within a polygon and what are the limitations?

Pete Levesque answered that as of July 1, 2005 new regulations went into effect and prior to that Natural Heritage may not have jurisdiction as the property does not fall within a resource area covered under the states Wetland Protection laws.

Frank Watson asked what the distance from buildings buffer to wetlands and where septic system is located.

Pete Levesque answered buffer is 50 feet from buildings to buffer and that the septic systems are located in the rear of the buildings.

Pat Cote asked if they were aware that there has been clearing and work already done on the property.

Pete Levesque asked to continue meeting.

Further notification to Fish and Wildlife of the condition of property needs to be done and Charlie Schmitt will write letter.

Phil Grant made motion to continue meeting until September 21, 2005, seconded by Bonnie Geromini. All approved. Voting yes: Phil Grant, Bonnie Geromini, Charlie Schmitt, and Pat Cote.

PUBLIC MEETING ON GREEN MEADOWS SCHOOL – Additional Parking Spaces

9:00 p.m. Meeting opened by Charlie Schmitt. John Tomaszewski, from Ecotec was present to answer questions regarding project.

Further information had been requested in regards to drainage, how it was being treated and if fill had been put in.

John Tomaszewski reported that boulders that were previously there have been moved but no further fill has been brought in.

John T. explained that the drainage would basically be handled by a pair of catch basins, perforated pipe in ground with stone around it. The leaching trench length will be 160 lineal feet. The leaching system and catch basis is designed to handle the existing parking lot and new parking spaces. The system is designed to handle a 50 year storm with the infiltration system being able to infiltrate more than twice the expected runoff volume for a 24 hour storm. All of the drainage system has already been installed during the remodeling of the school. They were coming in to get approval for the grading and fill.

Charlie Schmitt stated that the Commission was not prepared to move on this tonight and that the Commission needed more information concerning what the capacity of pipe for runoff and its design components.

Public Meeting continued until August 10, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING ON GREEN MEADOW SCHOOL – Soccer Fields

9:22 p.m. Charlie Schmitt opened meeting. John Tomaszewski was present to answer questions regarding project.

John Tomaszewski explained that the tree line will remain as is. The proposed soccer fields will include grading within a Buffer Zone, construction of a stone dust parking area and no work is proposed within any Resource Area.

Motion made by Charlie Schmitt to approve plan with condition that construction shall conform to submitted DNT “Proposed Soccer Fields” dated May 2005 by Ecotec Environmental Associates, Inc. Second by Bonnie Geromini. All approved. Voting yes: Charlie Schmitt, Phil Grant, Bonnie Geromini and Pat Cote. Public meeting closed.

Charlie Schmitt requested clerk to write letter to Selectmen asking them to appoint Micael Liquori as a member of the Conservation Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Submitted by Judy Mikkola, Clerk