

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
January 23, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Sheryl Becker
S. Page Fallon
Jill Messick
Frank Meagher

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Magda Galiatsos

ALSO PRESENT:

Pamela Kerr
Hope Goff

Mr. Kozloski called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. PUBLIC HEARING – Notice of Intent – 61 Valley Street – Kuzmenko

Ryan Nelson of R. Levesque Associates was present representing the applicant, Mr. Kuzmenko. Mr. Nelson stated that the single family dwelling on this property was in disrepair for a long time and has since been demolished with only the footing remaining. The applicant is proposing to build a single family home in that general location. The property is within a riverfront area with a 200 foot riverfront boundary which extends from the Westfield River located off-site to the North. A bordering vegetated wetland has been delineated at the rear of the property. He went on to explain that there is an intermittent stream within this wetland that flows from South to Northeast through some abutting back yards. As this area is in a riverfront area, the applicant is applying for riverfront area redevelopment as there were existing degraded areas on site, those being the impervious surfaces of the house, sidewalks and gravel parking area. As the total project riverfront alteration exceeds the degraded area, they will be providing mitigation at a greater than 2:1 mitigation. The gravel parking area will be removed and the area will be loamed and seeded and trees planted. Much of the area is being mowed but as part of the mitigation, this area will be reverted back to vegetated wetland concentrating along the stream corridor. A silt fence is proposed in the area that will be called new riverfront area alteration within the scope of work. Mr. Kozloski is requesting that trees be planted at the riverfront area to keep it from being mowed so that it will remain wetland. Next Mr. Nelson went through his responses to comments from the DEP. He stated it is understood that moving the house is not considered an improvement as it is required under the redevelopment standards. Mr. Nelson provided photos of the degraded gravel areas and stated that his intent is to provide mitigation not restoration. The filing plan will be revised.

The hearing was opened to the public.

Victor Morgun - 50 Valley Street - spoke of drainage issues on the street. He stated that there was a stream on the property which is no longer there. He asked to have the stream restored to stop the water from running down the street and ruining the road.

Mike Santaniello – 12 Moore Street – spoke of drainage issues. Mr. Santaniello stated that the owner of 61 Valley Street has cleared the trees on the site and has pushed topsoil back causing the stream to re-route into the street and onto his property, damaging his garage. Mr. Kozloski said an on site visit will be done with Engineering next week.

Mr. Nelson requested to continue the public hearing for 61 Valley Street to the next meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Ms. Becker to continue the public hearing for 61 Valley Street to the Conservation Commission’s next meeting on February 13, 2020.

VOTE 5 - 0

2. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – 255 & 267 South Westfield Street – DePalma

A request was received from Ryan Nelson of R. Levesque Associates for a continuance of the public hearing for 255 & 267 South Westfield Street to allow time to address comments issued by the Town Engineering Department.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Ms. Becker to continue the public hearing for 255 & 267 South Westfield Street to the next Conservation Commission’s meeting on February 13, 2020.

VOTE 5 – 0

3. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – Notice of Intent – Main Street & Reed Street – Town of Agawam

A continuance has been requested by Tighe & Bond for the public hearing for Main Street & Reed Street as they continue to address DEP comments.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Mr. Meagher to continue the public hearing for Main Street & Reed Street to the next meeting as requested.

VOTE 5-0

4. EMERGENCY ORDER – North Street – Town of Agawam – Ratify

Mr. Kozloski stated that the work is complete and he showed pictures of the work and explained that this repair is temporary. Eventually, the culvert must be replaced with an Army Corps of Engineers standard culvert.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Mr. Fallon to ratify the emergency order for North Street - Town of Agawam.

VOTE 5-0

5. ENFORCEMENT ORDER UPDATES

Bondi's Island – Nothing will be done until Spring.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Mr. Meagher to amend the order of the agenda to discuss the St. Jacques Enforcement Order.

VOTE 5 – 0

End of St. Jacques Avenue - Ryan of R. Levesque Associates explained that John Johnson of W & I Construction, who was also present, has been a tenant renting this property and purchased it last December. The Enforcement Order was issued for alleged unpermitted fill within the buffer zone to a bordering vegetated wetland as well as within endangered species habitat. Ryan showed the existing site and then the proposed restoration plan. Erosion controls will be installed at the bottom of the slope. The upland slope which is a 4:1 slope, at the top then tapers off, will be planted with approved grasses and trees. Mr. Kozloski expressed concern that a guardrail or barrier of some kind must be placed at the edge of the parking area between the parking area and the wetlands and endangered species area to prevent further dumping. Mr. Johnson said he will look into the options. A site visit will be scheduled prior to the next meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Mr. Meagher to continue the Enforcement Order for the end of St. Jacques Avenue to the next meeting on February 13, 2020.

VOTE 5-0

1298 Suffield Street – Ryan Nelson of R. Levesque Associates explained that the Enforcement Order was for clearing in the buffer zone. A row of pines was removed and stumped. A cease and desist order was issued so the site has remained the same. There was no filling done in the resource area. He presented a proposed restoration plan this evening showing that a forested area within the 50 foot buffer zone will be restored. Within the 50 foot buffer zone they are proposing to regrade and apply loam and conservation seed mix. An intermittent stream does exist on the property. The planted buffer will be more than what is existing. Mr. Kozloski suggested a site visit be done.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Mr. Meagher to approve the restoration plan for 1298 Suffield Street.

VOTE 5 – 0

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 9, 2020

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Ms. Becker to approve the minutes of January 9, 2020 as written.

VOTE 4 – 0 – 1 (Meagher abstained)

7. Correspondence and Complaints

Mr. Kozloski updated the Commission on a recent site visit he did with Ms. Becker to check the erosion controls at 311 Shoemaker Lane. He took photos that were forwarded to the members.

On a recent Tuckahoe site visit, Ms. Kerr and Mr. Kozloski were accompanied by Emily Stockman of Stockman Associates and one of her field techs. The purpose of the site visit was to view wetland flagging done by R. Levesque Associates on behalf of the Town. Only portions of the site were flagged at this time. The ANRAD will not be submitted until spring but the Commission agreed that Ms. Stockman should be paid for her time on the site visit.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Mr. Meagher to pay Stockman Associates out of the Wetland account for the preliminary field work done on the Tuckahoe property.

VOTE 5 – 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.