

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
February 27, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman  
Sheryl Becker  
S. Page Fallon  
Jill Messick  
Magda Galiatsos  
Frank Meagher  
Keven Brown

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Pamela Kerr

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

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

Ryan Nelson of R. Levesque Associates was present representing the applicant, Mr. Kuzmenko. He presented a revised plan showing added plantings along the southwesterly property line. A proposed wooden split rail fence has also been added which would mark the BVW boundary along the side yard and the back yard. A note was also added for the contractor to clean the debris within the drainage swale. Ms. Messick would like to see some large trees planted on the east side as previously discussed, to absorb water. Mr. Kozloski would prefer shrubs as they would be close to homes and structures. Ms. Messick suggested forsythia or lilac bushes. Mr. Nelson suggested blueberries or dogwoods.

Mike Santaniello, 12 Moore St., voiced concerns with the water situation as it pools on the back side of the property. He would like to know what can be done for ground drainage as it is in a wetland. Mr. Kozloski stated that the amount of water should not be impacted by this project. He went on to say that some water will go into the street but it should not be as much as before. Ryan Nelson also added that there will be less impervious area, so less water should be getting into the street. Mr. Santaniello stated that he has a lot of problems with water in his back yard since Mr. Kuzmenko's previous landscaping was done. He is hopeful that the planting of bushes along the property border behind his garage will help keep his back yard from flooding. Mr. Kozloski advised him to keep his drainage pipe that flows into the catch basin clean and the catch basin should be cleaned once or twice a year.

There being no further public comments, the Commission closed the public hearing. The Order of Conditions was written at the end of the meeting.

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

Ryan Nelson of R. Levesque Associates representing Mr. DePalma, presented a site plan revised to address a letter received on February 20, 2020 from the Town of Agawam Engineering Department with a conditional approval with 4 conditions.

1. A NO LEFT TURN sign is to be installed across the street from the southern entrance.
2. A new southern driveway and grading in southwest corner of the parcel is located within Mass DOT property. The Applicant is to obtain all necessary permits and permissions from Mass DOT to connect the proposed working access to South Westfield Street. Mr. Nelson is instead proposing a retaining wall be constructed so no work will be happening in the Mass Dot right of way therefore no access permit would be required.
3. Slope granite curbing shall be installed in the concrete median of the southern driveway.
4. It is recommended that a small PVC pipe or similar item be used to create a space in the poured concrete median in the southern driveway for installation of a breakaway post for the proposed right turn only sign. This will allow the owner to install a new sign post in the median when it is hit by a plow or other vehicle.

In terms of conservation concerns, Mr. Nelson is proposing plantings at the bottom of the rear slope using 25 maple leaf viburnums and 32 creeping junipers. Mr. Kozloski noted that the original plan showed a retaining wall and step down. Mr. Nelson said he has sent these updated plans to Mark Stinson at the DEP. He said ok and had no comments. Mr. Nelson went on to say that a planting bed has also been added in front of the building. Mr. Kozloski also stated that the order of conditions needs to relate to the enforcement order since seeding still needs to be done in the spring.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to close the Public Hearing for 255 & 267 South Westfield Street.

VOTE 7 – 0

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

A continuation of the Public Hearing was requested by the Town of Agawam.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to continue the Public Hearing – Main & Reed Streets – Town of Agawam to the March 12, 2020 Conservation Commission meeting.

VOTE 7 – 0

4. Enforcement Order – end of St. Jacques

Ryan Nelson of R Levesque Associates reported that there had been a site visit today. He noted that they had staked in the field the proposed limit of work around the down gradient side of the violation area, the property line has been staked per a neighbor's, Valerie Ballard's, request and the center line of the proposed trees to be planted had also been staked. The work will start immediately once approved. The property owner, John Johnson, will complete the work using an excavator to regrade the bottom of the slope. This will require someone on-site periodically to determine where the native ground was and how much fill should be removed. Once the area has been regraded it will be seeded with a conservation seed mix and loam if necessary. Mr. Kozloski noted that there is one large tree leaning and dead and he feels the property owner should be allowed to take it down. Ryan stated that he is familiar with that, the cottonwood tree at the corner of the limit of work. Mr. Kozloski went on to say that the fill removal and regrading shall be completed by April 8, 2020, and the tree plantings should be done by May 30, 2020.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Mr. Meagher to approved the revised restoration plan at the end of St. Jacques Avenue with the following conditions:

1. The leaning cottonwood tree at the northeastern corner of the restoration area may be removed.
2. The restoration area plantings are to be completed by May 30, 2020
3. The remainder to be completed by April 8, 2020.
4. All plantings will be monitored for two full growing seasons with a report being done by their environmentalist before October 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, 2020 & 2021.

VOTE 7 – 0

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 13, 2020

Motion was made by Ms. Becker and seconded by Ms. Messick to approve the minutes of February 13, 2020 as written.

VOTE 5 – 0 – 2 Meagher and Galiatsos abstained

6. Correspondence and Complaints

Mr. Kozloski spoke saying that a complaint was issued about the Meadows. The property owner had been taking trees down with an excavator. A site visit was done on Wednesday, February 19, 2020. Present were Mr. Kozloski, Ms. Kerr, Building Inspector Bill Scott, Deputy

Superintendent of the water department John Decker and the property owner at which time Mr. Kozloski took several pictures. The DEP was contacted and they don't believe they issued the final consent order when there was a violation in 2011, perhaps it was done by the DA . Research is being done by our Law Department. It appears that several properties and property owners are involved.

7. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE – 1260 Suffield Street – Coffee Pause

The Order of Conditions was issued in 2001 for enlargement of their parking area. The work was never started, the order has expired so they will need to clear it off the deed.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to issue a Certificate of Compliance and check off invalid Order of Conditions for 1260 Suffield Street.

VOTE 7 – 0

The Commission then wrote the Order of Conditions for 255 & 267 South Westfield Street. A copy can be obtained in the Town Clerk's office or the Commission office.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Ms. Becker to issue the Order of Conditions for 255 & 267 South Westfield Street – Ralph Depalma - as written.

VOTE 7 – 0

The Commission then wrote the Order of Conditions for 61 Valley Street. A copy can be obtained in the Town Clerk's office or the Commission office.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Mr. Fallon to issue the Order of Conditions for 61 Valley Street – Kuzmenko – as written.

VOTE 7 – 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.