

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
August 27, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Pamela Kerr

VIA Zoom Webinar

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

1. REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION – 805 River Road – Columbia Gas

Jesse Moreno of ProTerra Design Group LLC presented this RDA on behalf of Columbia Gas of Massachusetts which shows the installation of a natural gas service to the existing residence located at 805 River Road (corner of Simpson Circle). The work will be over 100' from the Bank of the Connecticut River and 100' buffer zone and is shown to be floodplain. Excavation will occur next to the driveway and behind the residence in previously disturbed lawn and walkway area. Work includes the installation of 95' of 1 ¼" diameter plastic gas service from the existing 2" MP coated steel main located on the south side of Simpson Circle and involves excavating and restoring a shallow (3' deep) trench in the road shoulder, paved roadway surface and lawn area next to and behind the residence. The work will occur in the existing disturbed lawn and walkways and will not result in any permanent impacts or changes to the resource areas or buffer zones. No changes in elevation of the floodplain are proposed and work area will be restored to existing condition. Mr. Kozloski asked how long this work would take. Mr. Moreno stated one to two days. Ms. Messick Ward stated that the house and road are physical barriers between the work and the River. She recommended a negative determination.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick Ward and seconded by Mr. Fallon to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability for Columbia Gas of Massachusetts for work at 805 River Road, requesting that the Commission be notified when the work will begin.

VOTE 7-0

2.

PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – Notice of Intent – Springfield Water and Sewer – Connecticut River Crossing

Betsy Frederick of Kleinfelder requested that this public hearing be continued to the next meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to continue the Public Hearing for the Connecticut River Crossing project to the next meeting as requested by the applicant's representative.

VOTE 7 – 0

3. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – Notice of Intent – 173 Southwick Street – Hillside Development Corp.

Robert Levesque of R. Levesque Associates was present to update the members on the progress of this subdivision. He went over the site visit that was held this week with members of the Conservation Commission as well as the Planning Board. He presented a revised plan this evening as a result of the site visit. Changes include: A swale has been shown along the eastern property line and around the south side to the detention basin to convey the drainage. He stated that there will be a 20' grading/drainage easement created for this swale to maintain the flows on lots 1 through 8. Next he has moved the outfall of the detention basin to the south for flow to the wetland. He stated that Mr. Kozloski had previously expressed concern over the location of the outfall and questioned how the water would get to the wetland. After the members left the site today he did further research on the property and found that it made sense to move the outfall to the south. Finally, the limit of work line was clarified – the silt fence/low was moved, plantings in the 50' buffer have been shown. Mr. Kozloski asked the members if they wanted monuments in this area as well. Ms. Messick Ward stated that she was satisfied with the plantings. Mr. Fallon asked if the proposed swale along the eastern boundary would intercept water coming off of the Polish Club property and result in erosion in the swale. Mr. Levesque stated no, there will be a very minimal slope in the swale and it will be grassed. He does not anticipate erosion being a problem. Ms. Messick Ward asked if a homeowners association was being proposed. Mr. Levesque stated yes and they can include the responsibility of maintaining the swale in the homeowners association documents.

Mr. Kozloski then asked for any public input. There was none this evening. Mr. Levesque stated that he has not yet received feedback from the Engineering Department on their revised plan. He requested a continuance to the next meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Meagher and seconded by Ms. Becker to continue the public hearing for 173 Southwick Street to September 10, 2020.

VOTE 7 – 0

4. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – Notice of Intent – 0 Poplar Street – Lucia

Tom Lucia a revised plan for the proposed single family home on this existing lot. Another site visit was conducted today with members of the Commission and Mr. Lucia. He presented a revised plan this evening with the 100' riverfront line being adjusted and the existing trees are now being shown (five of which will be removed for this proposed project). A tree has fallen across the brook in a recent storm. There was further discussion of the DEP comments as well as the limit of lawn. The total amount of riverfront alteration is 5,148 sf. Ms. Messick stated that she would like to see monuments and plantings along the limit of lawn area so that the future owners don't go beyond that with mowing, etc. Mr. Kozloski agreed. He then asked for public input.

Kevin Walters of 374 Poplar Street expressed concern as the storm drainage from the street now flows over this property down to the brook as there is no berm along the lot. He is concerned that post development on this lot the water may continue down the street and down his driveway, into his basement. He stated that he had that problem a few years back and the DPW came out and actually built up the end of his driveway to prevent flows down his driveway. Upon hearing his concerns, the members felt that another site visit was in order and that they would ask someone from the Engineering Department to accompany them as well.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to continue the Public Hearing for 0 Poplar Street until September 10, 2020

VOTE 7-0

5. PUBLIC HEARING – Notice of Intent – 358 Corey Street – General Construction & Env.

Rob Levesque was present for this NOI. A site visit was held today with members of the Conservation Commission and Planning Board. He spoke of the concerns raised today regarding the proximity of the proposed work to the pond. In particular, units 15 & 16 as well as the proposed retaining wall were of concern. He went on to say that they have not yet received the Engineering Department comments and will be addressing the DEP comments for the next meeting. He indicated that the developer, Dwight Scott, is willing to make adjustments to the site plan if possible. He asked for a continuance to the next meeting.

Mr. Kozloski then asked for public input. There was none this evening.

Motion was made by Mr. Meagher and seconded by Ms. Becker to continue the public hearing for 358 Corey Street to the next meeting (September 10, 2020) as requested by the applicant's representative.

VOTE 6-0-1 (Fallon abstained)

6. Tennessee Gas Pipeline – condition #20 – additional compliance monitors

Debi McCartney of Kinder Morgan was present. She had submitted two resumes (Tom Gunter and Andrew Carrano) for additional monitors for the Tennessee Gas Pipeline project. The members had received these resumes earlier and had no concerns with either.

Motion was made by Ms. Becker and seconded by Mr. Brown to accept Andrew Carrano and Tom Gunter as additional compliance monitors for the Tennessee Gas Pipeline project.

VOTE 7-0

7. 311 Shoemaker Lane- Reduction in Weekly Monitoring Reports Request

The Commission had received a request from Kyle Macdonald, compliance monitor for the 311 Shoemaker Lane solar project that the frequency of required monitoring reports be reduced to monthly (as opposed to weekly) as well as after 1” rain events as the site is well stabilized and there have been no recent issues with the erosion controls. Mr. Kozloski made a site visit today with Mr. Macdonald. He recommended to the members that they ask to be notified when the seeding will begin in September. He also expressed some concern over the stream crossing by the access road and feels that the Commission should discuss at a later date whether they should berm each side of the crossing to prevent flooding during heavy rains. The members were in agreement after looking at photos that the monitoring reporting be reduced to monthly.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick Ward and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to reduce the required monitoring reports for 311 Shoemaker Lane to monthly and after each 1” rain event and to request the Commission to be notified prior to the seeding taking place in September.

VOTE 7-0

8. Correspondence and Complaints

The Commission received a copy of the approved Forest Cutting Plan for Lane on South West Street. The access road is directly next to Leonard Pond. There are endangered species on the site – NHESP put conditions on the Cutting Plan. Members were concerned with enforcement and agreed to request additional information from the forester.

9. Review OOC – 61 Valley Street – Kuzmenko

Mr. Kuzmenko was not present for the meeting. Mr. Kozloski stated that he would meet on-site with Mr. Kuzmenko to go over the Order of Conditions. Other members may also attend. This will be scheduled next week.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 13, 2020

Motion was made by Ms. Messick Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to approve the minutes of August 13, 2020 as written.

VOTE 7-0

11. REQUEST FOR EXTENSION – 116 Adams Street – Paliy

Mr. Paliy requested an extension and a site visit to discuss backfilling the foundation of his garage/barn. The members agreed to a one year extension. A site visit will be scheduled next week.

Motion was made by Mr. Meagher and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to extend the Order of Conditions for Mr. Paliy at 116 Adams Street for one year to August 20, 2021.

VOTE 7-0

South Westfield Street – DePalma

Rob Levesque sent in photos of the replication area at 255/267 South Westfield Street. Mr. Kozloski had been by there and noticed a few trees had come down during a recent storm. From the photos RLA sent it appears that many of the required trees that were planted last Fall did not survive. The members asked that a letter be sent to Mr. DePalma asking how many of the restoration plantings did not survive and when he intends to replace them.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM.

VOTE 7-0