

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
April 8, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Pamela Kerr

VIA Zoom Webinar

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

1. 6:00 PM – REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY – 51
Cosgrove Avenue – Sessions

Mr. Kozloski explained that this RDA is for a proposed gas line to be installed at 51 Cosgrove Avenue. It is just inside the River Front's 200' and is a good distance from the wetlands. He stated that if the homeowner is going to dump material on the property the Commission would have to give their approval because it is close to the wetland. Ms. Kerr added that the homeowner is responsible for any excavated materials and for restoration of the lawn and driveway. Erosion controls will be used.

Motion was made by Mr. Meagher and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to issue a negative Request for Determination of Applicability for 51 Cosgrove Avenue – Sessions – with the understanding that the homeowner will be following the Eversource guidelines.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

2. REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY CONT. – 144 Hendom
Drive – Bortolussi

Mr. Kozloski said he did a site visit and noted that the fence must be 6" above the ground to allow passage for wildlife. Mr. Bortolussi, homeowner, was present and he said that was fine. Mr. Kozloski said that included in this will be work done behind the house – gravel and stone were put down for a small picnic area. He said there is currently an Enforcement Order stating

that the remaining piles of stone must be moved outside of the River Front Area and the Flood Plain. Mr. Kozloski said that moving the 2 piles closer to the house could be acceptable. Mr. Meagher noted a concern that Mr. Bortolussi be careful with the use of fertilizer. He agreed.

Motion was made by Mr. Meagher and seconded by Mr. Brown to issue a negative Request for Determination of Applicability for 144 Hendom Drive – Bortolussi – subject to the fence being at least 6” above the ground with a note that this includes the work done previously behind the house.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

3. PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED – Notice of Intent – Aspenwood Associates LLC – 0 Silver Street & 0 Doane Avenue (continued to April 8th)

The Commission received a request to continue the Public Hearing to April 22, 2021.

Motion was made by Ms. Becker and seconded by Mr. Fallon to continue the Public Hearing – Notice of Intent – Aspenwood Associates LLC – 0 Silver Street & 0 Doane Avenue to April 22, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

Ms. Ward entered the meeting.

4. ENFORCEMENT ORDER UPDATES:
North Street Extension / Tanglewood Lane (ext. to April 8th)

Rob Levesque of R. Levesque Associates, who was representing Mr. Tirone, said they had a site visit recently. He compiled a list of 7 items that were discussed in the field. 1. Reinstall the silt fence in the previously approved limit of work. 2. Excavate and legally remove stumps from the subject property. 3. Once the stumps are removed, the site will be regraded to repair the existing grade by backfilling where the stumps were and restoring the topsoil. 4. Once the stumps are back-filled the site would be fine graded, loamed and seeded. 5. The site will be seeded with native erosion control mix and watered to establish a minimum of 85% vegetated cover. 6. There was discussion on site about the sewer easement being maintained by Mr. Tirone. 7. Upon establishment of vegetation, the owner will notify the Commission and a site visit will be done prior to removal of the silt fence. Mr. Kozloski asked if any trees were being planted. Mr. Levesque said there is no proposal to plant trees. Mr. Kozloski asked how many trees were cut down in the Buffer Zone. Mr. Levesque estimated 10 – 15 large trees and 15 – 20 smaller trees were cut down. Mr. Kozloski asked if they would be replacing any of these trees. Mr. Levesque said that is not in the current proposal. Ms. Ward said that most of the lot is not a resource area so replacing the trees is not a major concern. She feels it is not a necessary requirement and that planting a native seed mix will be adequate for now. Ms. Ward went on to say that the trees that were removed did not provide shade to the wetlands therefore there is no reason to plant more trees as the resource area is shaded. Mr. Fallon noted that Mr. Tirone will maintain the sewer

easement but asked about the maintenance of the cleared lot that is planted with seed. Mr. Levesque said that Mr. Tirone wants to keep it clear so he would mow it once or twice a year. Ms. Kerr spoke saying that the Commission required a restoration plan and asked if the 7 bullet points in his presentation are the plan. Mr. Leveaque said that yes, those points described the work to be done. Mr. Kozloski pointed out that if the Commission approves this plan, anyone can go into a Buffer Zone, cut trees and not have to replace them. Ms. Ward said that in this circumstance it makes sense to plant native grasses. Mr. Fallon said he would be happier with some trees planted along the side of the sewer easement. Mr. Levesque proposed planting 3 red maples in a row to be located on the other side of the easement not on the wetlands side.

Motion was made by Mr. Fallon and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to approve the Restoration Plan for North Street Extension / Tanglewood Lane as discussed with the planting of 3 red maples along the upland side of the sewer easement and with an inspection in the fall.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0 – 1 (Meagher)

5. EMERGENCY ORDER (ratify) – Lealand Avenue (beaver dam)

Ms. Kerr said the beavers are back at work. This is the 3rd time the dam has had to be breached. They will also be trapping. Mr. Kozloski spoke with Mark Stinson at the DEP to see how many times an Emergency Order can be issued for this. Mr. Stinson told him that the Town should apply for a Notice of Intent so they can go in there periodically to remove the beaver dam and trap whatever they have to trap. Mr. Kozloski said that in addition he spoke with the DPW. He was told that the stream is too small to install a beaver type structure so they have to go in periodically to open up the dam and clean it out. Mr. Kozloski is expecting an NOI from the DPW for future work but the Commission can ratify the Emergency Order to get this work done now.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to ratify the Emergency Order for Lealand Avenue (beaver dam).

ROLL CALL VOTE 7 - 0

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 16, 2021 and March 25, 2021

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to approve the minutes of March 16, 2021 as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0 – 1 (Galiatsos)

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Becker to approve the minutes of March 25, 2021 as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0 – 1 (Galiatsos)

7. PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED – Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) – 0 Franklin Street, 10 & 14 Tennis Road, and 132 Rear Mill Street (continued to April 22nd)

The Public Hearing was previously continued to April 22, 2021. An on-site visit is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

8. Correspondence and Complaints

Ms. Kerr told the Commission members that Tennessee Gas has sent in resumes for some new wetland scientists. Debi McCartney of Tennessee Gas, said that they sent in resumes for wetland scientists and for a compliance monitor. Mr. Kozloski reminded Ms. McCartney that the spring inspection of the pipeline needs to be done in the near future. Ms. McCartney said the compressor work will begin soon and the status reports will go back to weekly.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to approve the current slate of wetland scientists and compliance monitor for Tennessee Gas.

ROLL CALL VOTE 7 – 0

Ms. Kerr said an email was received from the owners of 148 Edgewater Road. They have some trees by the lake that they want to have removed. Richie's Tree Service has been out to look at them. Mr. Kozloski said that in the photos received one tree is very large and dead. Mr. Meagher noted that Mr. B'Shara of Richie's Tree Service, commented that the trees close to the lake have very shallow root systems and recommended that they be removed. Mr. Meagher feels that the Commission should follow the recommendation of the tree service.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to issue an Emergency Order - 148 Edgewater Road - for the removal of 6 – 8 trees per the recommendation of the arborist. Disturbance will be minimized and the Commission will be notified 24 hours in advance of the removal.

There was discussion among the members. Mr. Fallon expressed concern that the heavy equipment used to remove the trees might damage the area close to the lake. Ms. Ward explained that there is a steep slope down to the lake and the trees are at the top of the slope. She feels that the shoreline would not be affected. Mr. Fallon suggested that the Commission stipulate that they minimize any disturbance around the lake and give the Commission 24 hours notice when the work is to begin.

ROLL CALL VOTE 7 – 0

Ms. Kerr said that the Department of Food and Agriculture owns the property behind the Soldier On Facility on South Westfield Street. The property has historically been farmed by Joe Czerpak who lived next door but he no longer farms there. They want to lease the land out to be farmed but the only access now is through the Czerpak property. They are proposing to put a dirt farm road in along the side of Soldier On. They sent a conceptual plan and Mr. Kozloski went on site today. The proposed farm road is approximately 140' away from the wetlands. Mr. Kozloski said that a farming road is an exempt activity. Ms. Kerr said they just wanted to make sure that the Conservation Commission was on board. The Commission members agreed that it was fine.

Ms. Kerr said that the Commission received correspondence from Springfield Water and Sewer Commission. The Commission had previously approved some temporary pavement within the work area. Their contractor is proposing to use concrete instead of asphalt and it will be removed at the end of the project. The members had no problem with that.

Ms. Kerr said that as for the South Street complaint, someone needs to follow up on that with the farmer, Mr. Markowski. He said that he had removed the debris. Mr. Kozloski will go on site with Ms. Becker and Ms. Galiatsos to confirm.

Ms. Kerr mentioned a complaint on Kosciuski Avenue. Mr. Kozloski said he would go on-site with Ms. Galiatsos and Ms. Becker.

Mr. Kozloski noted that the Commission will need to do the spring inspection on the gas pipe line.

Mr. Kozloski also noted that the State is finishing up on Pine Street and he feels the Commission should go on-site. The Commission had required that outside of the detention basin, trees would be planted and he feels that they should check to be sure everything in the Order is done.

Mr. Kozloski said that further down Pine Street is a large condo unit being built. He suggested an on-site for that.

Mr. Kozloski said there is a piece of Town property that is now being used as a dump-site off of South Westfield Street that needs an on-site.

Mr. Kozloski said the Commission should go on-site and look at the pipeline crossing the Connecticut River.

Motion was made by Mr. Meagher and seconded by Ms. Ward to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Hpg

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