

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
May 13, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jill Ward

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 – 152
Coyote Circle – Goodfellow

Mr. Kozloski noted that he and Mr. Meagher did a site visit on Wednesday. He explained that the applicant wants to cut trees in his back yard around the pond. Robert Goodfellow presented the RDA for 152 Coyote Circle. He explained that his property abuts privately owned land that has a pond on it. He said that the area he wants to clear is not 100' from the pond. He said he will also be installing a 6' vinyl fence at the boundary of his property. The land will be excavated to be made level for lawn and plant growth such as shrubs. He went on to say that he will be adding a zone to his existing irrigation system in the proposed work area. Mr. Goodfellow said that the purpose of clearing the land is to prevent injury, fatality, incident or damage from falling trees as many are in poor condition and that the purpose of installing a fence is to keep his child from wandering into the woods or the pond. Mr. Kozloski noted that there would be grading done within 20' to 30' of the pond. Mr. Goodfellow said that is correct. Ms. Kerr said that the pond is a resource area under the Act, so any activity within 100' would require a NOI. Mr. Meagher said there were numerous damaged trees but also some healthy ones. He noted that heavy machinery would be needed to excavate the property. He believes that clearing the property would eventually do damage to the pond. He is also concerned that other abutting property owners may also want to clear their land around the pond. Mr. Kozloski said that if the Commission issues a positive determination, Mr. Goodfellow would need to file a NOI with the plan showing exactly what he is going to do. Ms. Kerr added that the plan would show the grading, how close he will get to the pond, and the location of the fence. Mr. Brown asked how many trees would be cut down. Mr. Goodfellow replied 80 to 100 trees would be cut. Ms.

Galiatsos asked how many of those trees are healthy. Mr. Meagher said at least half are healthy. He asked if the fence would have to be 6" off the ground for passing wildlife. Mr. Kozloski said he would be ok with removing damaged and dead trees under an Emergency Order but any other work would require a NOI. Mr. Goodfellow asked who would determine if a tree is healthy. Mr. Meagher said an arborist would be needed to make an official determination. He also said that an Emergency Order could be issued for the dead and dangerous trees. Mr. Goodfellow said the property would still have a slope and the fence can follow the contour of the land. Mr. Meagher noted that a NOI would show the official markings, the buffer zone, elevation contours and how far the work is from the pond. Mr. Kozloski noted that some of the trees nearest the house may be out of the Commission's jurisdiction. Mr. Goodfellow reiterated that anything outside of 100' from the pond he can take down.

Motion was made by Ms. Becker and seconded by Mr. Fallon to issue a positive Determination of Applicability for 152 Coyote Circle – Goodfellow.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

2. 6:15 – REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY – 33 Oriole Drive – Sexton

Beth Sexton and Glen Bradley explained that they are proposing to re-construct the existing deck to include a screened room. This would involve extending the sides of the deck 4'. Mr. Kozloski and Mr. Meagher went on site the previous day. Mr. Kozloski said there is a small wetland in the lower right corner of the property which could be isolated. He went on to say that they are proposing to replace the existing deck making it approximately 4' longer and 4' wider. Mr. Meagher asked if erosion controls would be needed. Mr. Bradley said the deck will be on piers drilled into the soil so there is really no soil to remove.

Motion was made by Mr. Fallon and seconded by Mr. Meagher to issue a negative Determination of Applicability for 33 Oriole Drive – Sexton.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

3. 6:30 pm – REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY – 1000 Suffield Street – Agawam DPW

Tracy DeMaio presented the RDA for the Agawam DPW. She explained that they are looking to use the area behind the storage shed on the property as temporary storage for trash and recycling carts. Mr. Kozloski and Mr. Meagher did a site visit the previous day. Mr. Kozloski said that they will be putting concrete barriers where the fence ends, along the back and left side so that the area will be enclosed. He suggested that the Commission be on-site when the barriers are installed to be sure they are where they want them.

Motion was made by Ms. Becker and seconded by Mr. Meagher to issue a negative Determination of Applicability – 1000 Suffield Street – Agawam DPW.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 - 0

Motion was made by Ms. Galiatsos and seconded by Mr. Fallon to amend the order of the Agenda to allow discussion of Correspondence and Complaints and Approve the minutes of April 22, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

6. Correspondence and Complaints

Ms. Kerr received an email from Joe Tirone. He is proposing to remove some trees on his vacant lot on Allison Lane which contains a pond. He sent in a plan showing the location of the trees to be cut. According to the plan the area is over 100' from the pond but he would like someone to go to the site and meet with him. A site visit will be scheduled next week.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 22, 2021

Motion was made by Mr. Meagher and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to approve the minutes of April 22, 2021 as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 - 0

5. P. H. CONT. – Notice of Intent – Aspenwood Associates LLC – 0 Silver Street & 0 Doane Avenue (continued to May 13th)

Mr. MacNaughton has requested that the Public Hearing be continued to May 27, 2021.

Motion was made by Mr. Meagher and seconded by Mr. Brown to continue the Public Hearing – Notice of Intent – Aspenwood Associates LLC – 0 Silver Street & 0 Doane Avenue to the May 27, 2021 Conservation Commission meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

4. 6:45 PM – PUBLIC HEARING – Notice of Intent – 0 South Westfield Street – Noble Real Estate Holdings, LLC

Filipe Cravo of R. Levesque presented the NOI on behalf of Noble Real Estate Holdings, LLC. He explained that the NOI is for a proposed commercial development, a carwash, at the corner of South Westfield Street and Shoemaker Lane. He said he received comments from DEP, one being the close proximity of the proposed basin to the wetland and the second being protecting the wetlands during construction. Mr. Cravo said they also received comments from the Town Engineering Department regarding the site and the stormwater system. Mr. Cravo said the comments from both will be addressed and the plans revised accordingly. Approximately 2/3 of

the site is vegetated with grass cover. There is a drive-thru which dissects the site that connects the bank parking lot to Shoemaker Lane. He went on to say that there is an off-site wetland and BVW. The 50' and 100' buffer zones are shown on the plan. He said there is a culvert that conveys run-off from the grassy area under the drive-thru and out toward the wetlands at the eastern property line. What is being proposed is a carwash building which will be right up against the frontage of the property along the westerly property line with South Westfield Street. There is a driveway that connects the existing parking area from the property to the south. The driveway leads into the queuing line for the carwash. The Existing curb cut on Shoemaker Lane will remain. There will be some vacuum islands up against the building and some accessory parking at the edge of pavement. There is also a trash enclosure off the edge of pavement. In grading the land, Mr. Cravo said they worked with the topography of the land as much as possible. The high point is at the intersection of the two streets and generally slopes in a west to east direction. They have tried to maintain the slope and also the existing culvert under the driveway. There will be a grassy area along the South Westfield Street frontage and also the Shoemaker Lane frontage. The building and all impervious areas will be conveyed on the surface and will convey water toward the grass swale to the culvert. There will also be a catch basin at Shoemaker Lane. The utilities will be connecting well outside the 100' buffer zone. For landscaping, there will be the grassy areas mentioned before and plantings as shown on the plan including around the dumpster. Everything against the basin would be a vegetated surface. He added that the infiltration basin will likely be changed to a detention basin. Mr. Meagher asked if the wooded area will be removed and if so would that affect the wetland. Mr. Cravo said that the wetlands are off-site. The tree line will be cut back. Some of the buffer zone will need to be cleared to get the stormwater basin in there but a 50' buffer to the wetlands will remain. Reconfiguring the basin would leave a larger buffer up against the wetlands. Mr. Kozloski voiced concern with losing the shade canopy on the wetlands. Mr. Cravo said that by changing the shape of the basin and bringing the berm up, it should be able to be maintained. Mr. Kozloski opened the meeting to the Public. There were no comments. Mr. Cravo requested that the Public Hearing for Notice of Intent – 0 South Westfield Street be continued to the May 27, 2021 Commission meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Meagher and seconded by Ms. Becker to continue the Public Hearing – Notice of Intent – 0 South Westfield Street – Noble Real Estate Holdings, LLC to May 27, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 - 0

Motion was made by Ms. Becker and seconded by Mr. Brown to adjourn the meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 - 0

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.