

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
June 8, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Taryn Egerton
Pam Kerr

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

1. 6:00PM – REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION – South Westfield Street – Stockbridge Construction

Charles Kupfer with Stockbridge Construction was present for this agenda item. Mr. Kupfer stated they are proposing to construct a 16' wide and 550' long farm access road. He stated that the vegetation and trees will be chipped as brush and the road would be constructed of compacted gravel. He stated they would need to clear an extra five feet on either side of the road but it would be reseeded when construction is complete. Mr. Brown asked if the road was to be constructed through a wetland. Mr. Kupfer stated the wetland is approximately 75' away. Mr. Kozloski stated that this area was looked at for a project on an abutting property and it was determined that it was a drainage ditch and not a wetland. He questioned how long the project would take. Mr. Kupfer stated they would need one week to cut vegetation and an additional week for gravel placement and reseeded. Mr. Meagher asked if the State would be responsible for maintenance and Mr. Kupfer stated yes. Mr. Kozloski suggested a silt sock be placed along the wetland during construction.

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Meagher to issue a Negative Determination for South Westfield Street – Stockbridge Construction, conditional upon using a silt sock during construction and notifying the Commission when work will commence.

VOTE 7 – 0

2. REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION CONT. – 664 Suffield Street - Murphy

The Commission was able to schedule a site visit prior to this meeting. They determined that the shed would be placed on an existing gravel base. Mr. Fallon stated that the shed would not be going into the ground and there would be no cutting of vegetation. There is a steep grade change near the area that the shed is proposed but the Commission did not notice any erosion. Mr. Brown stated this project wouldn't have a significant impact on the Riverfront Area.

Motion was made by Ms. Brown and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to issue a Negative Determination for 664 Suffield Street – Murphy.

VOTE 6 – 1 (Kozloski)

3. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – NOTICE OF INTENT – 1070 Suffield Street – Town of Agawam

Doug Serrill, Berkshire Design Group, was present for this agenda item. Also in attendance on behalf of the Town was Police Chief Eric Gillis; Rob Todisco, P-Three (OPM); and Jim Hanifan, Caolo & Bieniek Associates. Mr. Serrill stated that the revised plan includes added plantings and wetland flags. Mr. Kozloski asked why the erosion controls are on the opposite side of the Japanese Maple Tree. Mr. Serrill stated they will be putting in tree fencing to protect the tree as much as possible. Mr. Kozloski suggested adding another Japanese Maple to the northern side of the property in case the one currently planted doesn't survive construction. Mr. Serrill suggested a native wetland species instead. Mr. Fallon asked if the 12' drive lane over the gas line would be a problem. Mr. Serrill stated that this is common but the location of the gas line would be field verified. He stated there will be clusters of red twigged dogwood along the 12' drive lane. Ms. Galiatsos asked if the willow tree would be a hassle to remove if needed. Mr. Serrill stated he would work with the Engineering Department and the Tree Warden. Mr. Kozloski mentioned Conservation Commission approval would also be required to remove the tree. Mr. Meagher stated the dogwood may be difficult to establish and suggested adding a variety of plants. Mr. Serrill stated this was a dogwood shrub which is a common native shrub that grows well. Mr. Fallon asked about snow removal and whether the salt and sand would have an effect on the wetland. Mr. Serrill stated that the stormceptor is good with sand and can recommend the use of sand vs salt. He also stated that snow would be removed to various areas around the parking lot, would not be plowed into the wetland, and snow stakes could be added to prevent damage to vegetation. Ms. Ward asked about the maintenance of stormceptors. Mr. Serrill stated that the Stormwater report has information on maintenance. Mr. Kozloski asked about erosion controls. Mr. Serrill stated they would be using 12" wattles/silt socks, staked every 10'. Mr. Brown asked if the bittersweet overtaking the willow could be cut down if it's in the work order. Mr. Serrill stated yes and it could be added to the Order if desired. Mr. Fallon noted that if the willow tree needs to be removed, it would leave a large hole in the canopy.

Mr. Kozloski opened the meeting to the public and there were no comments.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Brown to close the Public Hearing for the Notice of Intent – 1070 Suffield Street – Town of Agawam.

VOTE 7 – 0

The Order of Conditions will be written at the end of the meeting.

4. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – NOTICE OF INTENT – North Westfield Street over May Hollow Brook – Town of Agawam DPW

The Commission received a written request to continue this public hearing to June 22, 2023.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Brown to continue the Public Hearing for the Notice of intent on North Westfield Street over May Hollow Brook – Town of Agawam DPW to the June 22, 2023 meeting.

VOTE 7 – 0

5. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – NOTICE OF INTENT – 1014 North St Ext – VIP Homes & Associates LLC

Michael Mocko, with Mocko Environmental, was present to give the Commission an update on his progress. He is discussing alternatives with the applicant and is hoping to utilize a paper street to the north for access. Mr. Mocko has reached out to various Town departments for input on the ability to do that. Ms. Kerr stated there are still outstanding Engineering comments and peer review comments that need to be addressed. Mr. Mocko requested a continuance to the July 13, 2023 meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Brown to continue the Public Hearing for the Notice of Intent – 1014 North Street Ext – VIP Homes & Associates LLC to July 13, 2023.

VOTE 7 – 0

6. Request for Certificate of Compliance – Poplar Street – Savonin

Viktor Savonin was present for this request. He acknowledges that the Commission will need to go on site but informed the members that monuments and plantings are in, and the grass has been established. Mr. Savonin informed the Commission that his attorney is working on a draft deed to ensure the restriction is recorded. Mr. Kozloski suggested waiting one growing period to ensure the plantings take. Mr. Savonin is requesting to take out the silt fence.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to issue the Certificate of Compliance for Poplar Street, pending a favorable site visit and receipt of the draft deed.

VOTE 7 – 0

7. Correspondence and Complaints

The Commission received a complaint on 115 South West Street. A site visit will need to be scheduled.

The Commission received a complaint regarding tree cutting at 61 Valley Street and the abutting property. There is an open Order of Conditions on the property but after a site visit from the public right-of-way, it was noted this work was not included on the approved plan.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to issue an Enforcement Order for 61 Valley Street that includes a Cease and Desist Order and requires a restoration plan to be approved by the Conservation Commission for all disturbed areas, prepared by an environmental consultant, to be submitted on or before June 22, 2023.

VOTE 7 – 0

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 24, 2023 & May 25, 2023

Motion was made by Ms. Becker and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the minutes of May 24 2023 as written.

VOTE 6 – 0 – 1 (Brown)

Motion was made by Ms. Becker and seconded by Ms. Ward to approve the minutes of May 25, 2023 as written.

VOTE 6 – 0 – 1 (Galiatsos)

9. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – NOTICE OF INTENT – Main Street – Westfield
River Interceptor Sewer Relocation Project – Agawam (Continued to June 22, 2023)

The Commission received a request to withdraw, without prejudice, the Notice Intent application for the Westfield River Interceptor Sewer Relocation Project.

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Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Brown to accept the request to withdraw, without prejudice, the Town of Agawam's Notice of Intent Application for the Westfield River Interceptor Sewer Relocation Project.

VOTE 7 – 0

The Order of Conditions was then written for 1070 Suffield Street – Town of Agawam. A copy is available in the Office of Planning & Community Development for review.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Brown to issue the Order of Conditions for 1070 Suffield Street – Town of Agawam as written.

VOTE 7 – 0

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

VOTE 7 – 0

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.