

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
September 9, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sheryl Becker

ALSO PRESENT:

Taryn Egerton

VIA Zoom Webinar

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

1. 6:00 PM – PUBLIC HEARING – Notice of Intent – 0 South West Street & 0 Pine Street
– Town of Agawam

Present for the Town of Agawam were Michelle Chase, Town Engineer, John Decker, Deputy Superintendent DPW, and Rich Niles, project manager for Woodard & Curran. Mr. Niles gave an overview of the project. He said there are 2 parcels formerly Tuckahoe Farm located in the south west portion of town. He said there is a dam on the property and a portion of the property has a solar field and another portion is TGP mitigation or restoration area. The plan for this property is for passive recreation. He noted that the wetlands were delineated by LEC. There is a proposed access road from Pine Street that extends over the dam with 2 parking areas. The plan also shows retention basins and walking paths that will use existing car paths. He went on to say that along West meadow there are multiple access points that are ADA compliant. They are also proposing a kayak launch at the pond. The dam must be rebuilt and re-permitted with the state. He said there is also a 10' x 10' wooden footbridge for the walkways. He went on to say that the existing dam with existing road across it are in poor condition. The outlet is not functioning properly. In reconstructing the dam they will reshape it so the slope is flatter. They will be installing a new structure with improved walkway and vehicle way (paved 2 lane). At present, there is debris in the area including pipe and steel in the resource area that will be removed. The outlet structure will be re-designed and replaced. It is proposed that the culverts and debris be removed from the crossing off of Pine Street, an existing farm road. Emily Stockman of Stockman Associates was also present. She said that she reviewed the preliminary plans and did a site visit. She said it would be helpful to discuss the storm water management of the site beginning with storm water basins 1 & 3. Mr. Niles said that retention pond 1 is a collection

system along the roadways. It is a conveyance system using swales as they are trying not to use hard pipe. A liner will also be used. Mr. Niles said that due to the shallow ground water, to meet design standards, it is a challenge to get the grading to work. He said centralized management is needed to capture and disperse storm water. Ms. Stockman said that the vast majority of retention pond 1 is outside of the buffer zone. At the clearing associated with the pond there is discharge near the wetland boundary. Mr. Niles noted that there would be underground piping from pond 1 to a riprap apron. Ms. Chase suggested pulling back the outfall with a level spreader to be farther away from the resource area. Mr. Niles said he will consider that as long as erosion is avoided. He went on to say that detention pond 3 is outside of the resource area but a portion is within the river front area. Ms. Stockman said that her concern with the storm water management plan is lack of management and maintenance in the future. She said that it does need to be maintained to function properly including removing sediment and suggested annual inspections. She noted that since the roads will not be maintained in the winter no sand or chemicals will be used on the roads. Ms. Chase noted that the O & M plan details the maintenance plan. Mr. Niles added that the Town has begun a capital improvement plan for the maintenance of old detention basins and ponds. Mr. Niles went on to say that they are proposing that the parking lot off of Pine Street have a pea gravel edge. Ms. Stockman said, referring to pond 3, that due to the complexity of the site due to previous work on the property, such as TGP off site mitigation, they must have clear boundaries delineated by LEC. She noted that SWCA delineated these lines and they are set in stone. TGP has an Order of Conditions still open. She said that there may be some overlap with the SWCA delineation and the LEC delineation. Andrea Kendall, LEC, said that the SWCA and LEC boundaries are basically running in the same direction. Mr. Niles said he will try to access the SWCA delineation through CAD. Ms. Stockman says the delineation needs to extend further downstream. Ms. Stockman noted that there is no DEP file# yet. Ms. Kendall said she spoke with Mark Stinson of the DEP regarding the water quality certification but he hasn't had time to review this in detail. Ms. Stockman advised keeping the public hearing open as this is a complex project. Mr. Fallon asked about the liner being installed – the function, composition and maintenance – at pond 1. Mr. Niles said the groundwater is shallow so they need to install a liner to keep ground water from coming up into the detention pond. He added that it will require rehab in the future but will last 30 to 50 years. It will be made of rubber or a high strength poly. Mr. Meagher asked about fishing potential at the pond. Mr. Niles said there are no specific fishing areas proposed but added that there will not be heavy vegetation along the dam so there will be some naturally accessible areas. Ms. Ward asked if the proposed road could be gravel instead of paved. Mr. Niles explained that gravel would be nearly the same as pavement but in order to plow for emergency access pavement would be better.

William Gensheimer, 347 South Street, said that he owns 1 Pine Street. He has observed surveying and there are truck ruts on his property. He asked if, for the Pine Street access, they will be using the right of way to his property on Pine Street. Mr. Niles said there is a 5' wide unpaved foot path that runs along the edge of the right of way. Nicholas Pietroniro, 19 Charter Oak Drive, said that he is happy with the project. He has observed the growth of invasive plant species that he hopes will be mitigated. Mr. Niles said the invasive species will be removed in the areas of work then loamed and seeded. Mr. Pietroniro would like to see the fields maintained as fields. Mr. Niles said that West Meadow has a gentle rolling slope and could be mowed and maintained. The East Meadow is outside of the limits of work and no intensive management is proposed. Mr. Niles noted that this is meant to be a passive recreation site. Ms. Stockman said

she will have a follow-up meeting to discuss riverfront mitigation and plantings. There was a brief discussion of the public having input on what the property is used for. Mr. Niles noted that this was in the public forum when the master plan was developed in 2019 & 2020. Mr. Kozloski said that since the cost of the project is funded by the town it must go before the City Council which is another public forum. Mr. Niles said he is looking for alternative funding as well. He then requested to continue the Public Hearing – Notice of Intent – 0 South West Street & 0 Pine Street – Town of Agawam to the next Conservation Commission meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to continue the Public Hearing - – Notice of Intent – 0 South West Street & 0 Pine Street – Town of Agawam to the next Conservation Commission meeting pending a site visit.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

2. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – Request for Determination of Applicability – 0 (737) South Westfield Street – Mario Mazza – Agawam DPW

A request was received to continue the Public Hearing – 0 (737) South Westfield Street – to the next Conservation Commission meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Meagher and seconded by Ms. Ward to continue the Public Hearing – Request for Determination of Applicability – 0 (737) South Westfield Street – Mario Mazza – Agawam DPW to the next Conservation Commission meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 - 0

3. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. - REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY– 32 Shoemaker Lane – Beach Mountain, LLC

A request was received to continue the Public Hearing - Request for Determination of Applicability – 32 Shoemaker Lane – Beach Mountain, LLC to the next Conservation Commission meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to continue RDA – 32 Shoemaker Lane – Beach Mountain, LLC – to the next Conservation Commission meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

4. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – Abbreviated Notice of resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) – 311 Shoemaker Lane – Zelinski, Halladay Farms

A request was received from Jeff Smith on behalf of Mr. Zelinski, Halladay Farms to continue the Public Hearing to the next Conservation Commission meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Meagher to continue the Public Hearing – (ANRAD) – 311 Shoemaker Lane – Zielinski, Halladay Farms to the next Conservation Commission meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 - 0

5. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – Notice of Intent – Aspenwood Associates LLC – 0 Silver Street & 0 Doane Avenue

A request was received from Mr. MacNaughton to continue the Public Hearing to the next Conservation Commission meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to continue the Public Hearing – Notice of Intent – Aspenwood Associates LLC – 0 Silver Street & 0 Doane Avenue to the next Conservation Commission meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

6. Safety Vests – Discussion and possible vote

The Commission would like to purchase safety vests for site visits and possibly have ID cards as well.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Brown to put discussion and possible vote for safety vests and ID cards on the next Conservation Commission Agenda.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

7. Correspondence and Complaints

Mr. Kozloski asked the Commission members if they would prefer to continue meeting virtually or in person and noted that this is acceptable until next year.

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Fallon to continue meeting via Zoom for 2 more months.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 - 0

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 26, 2021

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to approve the minutes of August 26, 2021 as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

There was a brief discussion of an open Enforcement Order from December, 2020 for 286 South Street. A site visit was done and it was observed that the debris was removed however an abutter has complained but doesn't want anyone on their property. Ms. Egerton said they are looking for a legal remedy from the town.

Mr. Kozloski said that an inspection should be done at Bondi's due to stockpiling.

It was noted that Ms. Ward and Mr. Meagher will not be present at the next meeting.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Hpg