

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
September 14, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jill Ward

ALSO PRESENT:

Stefanie Kesecker  
Pam Kerr

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

1. 6:00PM REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION-Connecticut River-Eversource  
Energy

Melissa Coady with Tighe & Bond was present for this agenda item. She stated this RDA was for geotechnical borings in the Connecticut River to inform the design of a Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) construction method for the replacement of an underground transmission main. Eversource anticipates construction of the underground replacement line will be via HDD which will avoid impacts to the wetland resource areas. Ms. Coady stated there will be two borings in Agawam, one on M. Street near Bondi's Island and one near the treatment plant. The borings will be advanced from a drill rig on a barge in the River. She stated the borings will be fully enclosed with a 6" casing and will go 70' below the riverbed. She stated they will check for geotechnical and environmental data. She stated the timing for this project will be early next year, depending on river conditions. They are also coordinating with Natural Heritage for rare species. West Springfield and Springfield have issued Negative Determinations for this same methodology stated Ms. Coady. Mr. Kozloski asked where the borings for Agawam would be and if they would affect the two lines the treatment facility has. Ms. Coady stated no they are north of the North End Bridge. Mr. Kozloski asked if she was aware on this side of the River there is coal tar deposits. She stated yes and they have mapped those deposits and they are near the east side of the River. Mr. Fallon asked if till was present when the other lines were installed. Ms. Coady stated that data had not been shared with them, but the HDD would indicate if till was present. Mr. Brown asked about the size of the horizontal bore diameter. Ms. Coady stated she was not certain but it will be a couple feet.

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Meagher to issue a Negative Determination for Connecticut River-Eversource Energy.

VOTE 6-0-0

2. 6:05PM PUBLIC HEARING-NOTICE OF INTENT-Parcel A Shoemaker Ln-Santaniello

Jeff Smith with Salvini Associates was present for this agenda item. He advised the Commission the house was in the 50' buffer, but no work would be occurring in the wetland. He stated this would be a single family home. He stated there is old building debris that was left onsite that is near the wetland area, which will be removed. The area will be tilled and planted with wetland plants and shrubs. These plants will be in a 20ft. wide long buffer along the existing wetland line. Mr. Kozloski asked about another pile of building debris onsite. Mr. Smith stated it would be taken off site and the area replanted with wetland vegetation based on borings. He stated they had received Engineering comments about a construction entrance and installing a screen over the storm drain. He stated this would be taken care of. Mr. Fallon asked about erosion controls. Mr. Smith stated silt socks would be used. Ms. Becker asked if the shed could be moved away from the wetland area and limit of work and closer to the pool. Mr. Smith stated the shed was previously closer, but they did move it based on DEP comments. Mr. Kozloski asked how far from the shed to the wetland. Mr. Smith stated 45'.

Mr. Kozloski open the meeting to the public. There were no comments.

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to close the PUBLIC HEARING-NOTICE OF INTENT-Parcel A Shoemaker Ln-Santaniello.

VOTE 6-0-0

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

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Becker to amend the order of agenda items as no one was yet present for item number 3.

VOTE 6-0-0

4. 6:20PM REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION-608 Cooper Street-Muskus

Anthony Muskus was present for this agenda item. He stated the house was oil heat and he would like to convert it to natural gas. He stated Eversource had done a lot of research and there is a brook beside the home. He stated Eversource had created a proposal using all their best practices they will use a silt sock and will not refuel onsite and will not work in the rain. Mr. Brown asked if it was horizontal drilling or a trench. Mr. Muskus stated a trench. Mr. Fallon asked how long the project would take to complete. Mr. Muskus stated Eversource stated they would be onsite 1-3 days.

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Fallon to issue a Negative Determination for 608 Cooper Street-Muskus.

VOTE 6-0-0

5. PUBLIC HEARING CONT.-NOTICE OF INTENT-384 Shoemaker Lane-Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative.

Zach Wallin and Jamie Fair with Weston & Sampson were present for this agenda item as well as Anna Bishop and Alvin Martin from Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative. Mr. Wallin stated they have provided written responses to both DEP and the Engineering Department. He stated Engineering has no additional comments. The Commission performed an onsite today. Mr. Kozloski asked him to go over the charging and fuel stations. Mr. Wallin stated the 13 charging stations are on the north side of the location. He stated an additional 15 and 28 electric charging stations may be installed in the future. Mr. Wallin stated the fuel tanks are double walled steel tanks. Mr. Kozloski asked if the fuel tanks would be phased out as more electric buses and charging stations are installed. Mr. Wallin stated yes future needs were taken into consideration. Mr. Kozloski asked him to explain the drainage. Mr. Wallin highlighted the catch basins and they drain into an underground detention chamber system that is lined. He stated it will not be acting as a filtration system as there is high ground water at the site. He stated there will be an isolator row to remove sediment. Mr. Kozloski asked what would keep the drains from filling up with debris from the parking lot. Mr. Wallin stated there is a baffle which directs stormwater towards the isolator row and that is where sediment and debris will gather. Mr. Kozloski asked how long it would take for the underground storage tank to empty. Mr. Wallin stated less than 72 hours it would drain completely between storms. Mr. Meagher asked if the electric to the site was sufficient as more electric charging stations area added. Mr. Wallin stated they had submitted an application to Eversource for new service to the site and it would be a new transformer and switch gear that can handle up to 28 chargers. Mr. Kozloski asked if the power would come from the power lines. Mr. Wallin showed on the map where the pole would be that Eversource would bring their power to, which would go underground and be trenched. Mr. Fallon asked if in the paved area the tank will delay the discharge to existing municipal line. Mr. Wallin stated yes through the storage in the tank and the outlet control structure as it will release the built up water in a controlled manner so peak runoff from the future development will not increase from the present runoff today. Mr. Fallon asked if the infiltration is done on the southern part of the site, why can't it be done on the central part of the location. Mr. Wallin responded that the infiltrators predate the Mass storm water handbook and they may not be engineered to today's DEP standards. Mr Fallon stated the current infiltrators may not actually be performing. Mr. Wallin stated they are most likely just conveyance. Ms. Galiatsos asked about large storm events and if this system could handle the water. Mr. Wallin stated the proposed system is designed for the 100 year storm. Mr. Kozloski asked what direction the water would go to if the system malfunctioned. Mr. Wallin stated it would probably flow to the east, south, and west. Mr. Meagher asked about snow storage. Mr. Wallin stated currently the snow is plowed to the east. Mr. Kozloski asked how that snow would get to the drainage system. Mr. Wallin stated that was outside the curb line in the grass, so it would take a

long time to melt. Mr. Kozloski stated the Commission may require some additional plantings at a later date based on an onsite with the Planning Board.

Mr. Kozloski opened the meeting to the public.

Kenneth Blair-373 Shoemaker Lane asked what size the existing drain line is. Mr. Wallin stated drain line was 12”.

Motion was made by Ms. Galiatsos and seconded by Ms. Becker to close the PUBLIC HEARING CONT.-NOTICE OF INTENT-384 Shoemaker Lane-Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative.

VOTE 6-0-0

The Commission will write the Order of Conditions at the end of the meeting.

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

The Commission received a request to continue to this agenda item to the September 28, 2023 meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Meagher and seconded by Mr. Brown to continue the PUBLIC HEARING CONT.-NOTICE OF INTENT-1014 North St Ext-VIP Homes & Associates LLC to the September 28, 2023 meeting.

VOTE 6-0-0

7. Request for Extension of Order of Resource Area Delineation-683 South Westfield Street-Depalma.

The applicant has requested an extension to this ORAD as they are anticipating filing a Notice of Intent on the property soon.

Motion was made by Ms. Becker and seconded by Mr. Brown to extend the Order of Resource Area Delineation-683 South Westfield Street-Depalma for 3 years.

VOTE 6-0-0

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-August 24, 2023

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to approve the minutes of August 24, 2023.

VOTE 5-0-1(Fallon)

9. Correspondence & Complaints.

Mr. Kozloski stated the Commission had performed an onsite at Cain's Mechanical-69 Franklin Street as there is an Enforcement Order. The owner has agreed to submit a written plan to the Commission and will pull dirt out, stabilize the embankment, install a fence, and remove a pile of brush on Beaver Camper.

Mr. Kozloski stated the Commission received a complaint for 42 South Brook Lane for significant clearing near the stream and wetland. Mr. Kozloski stated the Commission will perform an onsite.

Mr. Kozloski stated an onsite was performed for 13 Mark Drive. There are 2 trees in the back. Mr. Kozloski doesn't recommend additional plantings as there is not enough room. Mr. Kozloski stated he would perform another onsite to confirm the grass was growing.

Motion was made by Mr. Meagher and seconded by Mr. Brown to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 13 Mark Drive, conditional on a second onsite.

VOTE 6-0-0

Mr. Kozloski stated the Commission had met with Engineering at the end of Tower Terrace. Mr. Kozloski stated there is a pipe that runs out of the bank and there is erosion problems. Engineering asked the Commission to do an onsite with them to see what could be done. The Engineering Department is going to put something in writing. Mr. Kozloski stated a homeowner had proposed a sheet flow over the bank. Mr. Fallon stated that would lead to collapse of the road in a relatively short period of time.

Mr. Kozloski gave an update on the Enforcement Order for Xtreme Paintball-369 Main Street and stated a Notice of Intent should be submitted by the end of the month.

3. 6:15PM REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION-27 Greenacre Lane-Houlihan

No one was present for this agenda item. Mr. Kozloski stated the Commission performed an onsite. He stated there are large pine trees, there is Three Mile Stream and another stream on the property. He stated the tree warden had been onsite.

Motion was made by Ms. Becker and seconded by Mr. Brown to continue the REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION-27 Greenacre Lane-Houlihan to the September 28, 2023 meeting.

VOTE 6-0-0

The Commission wrote the Order of Conditions for Parcel A Shoemaker Lane-Santaniello.

Agawam Conservation Commission  
September 14, 2023

Motion was made by Mr. Fallon and seconded by Mr. Brown to issue the Order of Conditions for Parcel A Shoemaker Lane-Santaniello, as written.

VOTE 6-0-0

The Commission wrote the Order of Conditions for 384 Shoemaker Lane-Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative.

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to issue the Order of Conditions for 384 Shoemaker Lane-LPVEC, as written.

VOTE 6-0-0

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

VOTE 6-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.