

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
September 28, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Henry Kozloski
Sheryl Becker
Keven Brown
S Page Fallon
Jill Ward

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Magda Galiatsos
Frank Meagher

ALSO PRESENT:

Pam Kerr
Taryn Egerton

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

1. REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION CONT.– 27 Greenacre Lane – Houlihan

The Commission received a request to continue this agenda item to the October 12, 2023 meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Becker to continue the Request for Determination for 27 Greenacre Lane – Houlihan to the October 12, 2023 meeting.

VOTE 5 – 0

2. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – NOTICE OF INTENT – 1014 North Street Ext – VIP Homes & Associates, LLC

The Commission received a request to continue this agenda item to the October 12, 2023 meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Becker to continue the Public Hearing for the Notice of Intent – 1014 North Street Ext. to the October 12, 2023 meeting.

VOTE 5 – 0

3. Discussion – Order of Conditions Review for North Street Culvert Replacement Project

Frances Cameron from Woodard & Curran and Jim Rivest from Northern Construction were present to discuss the Order of Conditions for the North Street Culvert Replacement Project. Mr. Rivest stated he has the MassDEP sign to be erected prior to the start of construction, as required by the Order. Mr. Kozloski asked when erosion controls would be installed. Mr. Rivest stated the Town is currently reviewing an easement and the erosion controls would be installed following the resolution of that issue. He stated initial mobilization would be on October 10th. Mr. Kozloski asked if the road would be closed before or after the erosion controls are installed, explaining the Commission's requirement to inspect the erosion controls. Mr. Rivest stated they would be put in after the road is closed. Mr. Kozloski asked about the schedule of work. Mr. Rivest stated they would first install erosion controls, then do tree clearing and site prep demo to get ready for excavation. He stated that once excavation begins they would support existing utilities and continue excavation from the low to high side of the culvert. He stated once excavation is complete they would prepare for the concrete slab and construct the culvert. Mr. Kozloski asked how they would be dewatering. Mr. Rivest stated they have a sand bag coffer dam with a 3" electric pump for the main flow of the stream and 4" diesel pump on standby. He also stated they would be closely monitoring the weather forecasts. Mr. Kozloski asked when the second culvert would go in and how long the driveway would be closed. Mr. Rivest stated it would be about 3-5 days and the closure will be coordinated with the homeowners when the date gets closer. Mr. Kozloski asked if an environmentalist would be onsite. Ms. Cameron stated there is a field engineer who can check the erosion and sedimentation controls daily. Mr. Rivest stated the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan requires weekly inspections or after large storm events. Mr. Rivest stated he would coordinate with the Commission for their inspections. Mr. Kozloski stated the Commission would make inspections once a week to start. Ms. Cameron stated the field engineer is on site at all times and can send in photos from the project site. Mr. Brown asked if the field engineer would be present for the entire project and Ms. Cameron stated yes. Ms. Kerr asked about the detour plan and if a notification would be going out to the public. Mr. Rivest stated it has been approved by the Engineering Department and Police Department. Ms. Cameron stated she would look into whether any notifications will be sent out. Mr. Kozloski asked how long the project would take. Mr. Rivest explained the contract was for 60 days. Mr. Brown asked if this project would overlap with the May Hollow culvert replacement project. Ms. Cameron stated yes since that project is proposed to start in November. Mr. Fallon asked if the homeowner would have access to his house. Mr. Rivest stated that the driveway would either be completed one half at a time or steel plates could be put over the project area. Mr. Kozloski asked if there would be fabric in the catch basins. Mr. Rivest stated silt sacks will be installed and cleaned as needed. Mr. Brown asked if there would be any infiltration for dewatering and Mr. Rivest stated the sediment would go into a dirt bag onto a stone pad. Ms. Cameron stated that the field engineering reports covers all aspects of construction and the Commission can be given access to these materials. Mr. Kozloski asked where the equipment would be stored. Mr. Rivest stated the main excavators would be on the side heading toward North Westfield and any minor parts and materials would be on the opposite side. Mr. Kozloski asked how often the street

would be swept and Mr. Rivest stated as needed. Ms. Cameron stated the Agawam Engineering Department would be at all weekly construction meetings.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 14, 2023

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the minutes of September 14, 2023 as written.

VOTE 5 – 0

5. Correspondence and Complaints

The Commission received a complaint from a homeowner regarding the pumping of groundwater at 23 Moore Street into a stream that connects to the Westfield River. Mr. Kozloski spoke to the Water & Sewer Department to rectify this complaint and ensure it does not happen again in the future.

The Commission previously issued an Enforcement Order for 61 Valley Street to require a restoration plan for unpermitted work on the property, which the Commission has not yet received.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Brown to send a letter to the property owner of 61 Valley Street requiring the restoration plan be submitted within two weeks or the violation will be referred to the Law Department.

VOTE 5 – 0

The Order of Conditions for the Nicole Terrace Subdivision will expire on October 8, 2023. The Commission received a request to extend the Order.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Brown to extend the Order of Conditions for the Nicole Terrace Subdivision for one year, to October 8, 2024.

VOTE 5 – 0

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

VOTE 5 – 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.