

Present: Bob Elliott, Chairman; Emily Boeing, Tim Dinsmore, Kris Masterson, Rob Rand, Pat Swain Rice, Pete Steeves

7/14/2020 - Minutes

1. Packets

Packets of all documents submitted for the July 14, 2020 meeting were available on the Town of Pepperell website with a link to the documents provided from the Agenda.

2. Public Hearings, Public Meetings & Appointments

A. 7:00 PM THIS PUBLIC HEARING HAS BEEN CONTINUED TO AUGUST 4, 2020 AT 7 PM - The Commission Will Consider An Abbreviated Notice Of Resource Area Delineation Filed By HBC, Inc. For Review Of A Bordering Vegetated Wetland Boundary Delineation At 5 To 11 Sartelle Street. This public hearing was continued to August 4 at 7:00 PM.

B. 7:10 PM - Public Hearing Re: Notice Of Intent Filed By David Babin Of Babin Landscaping To Repurpose The Conway Chevrolet Dealership Site At 23-29 Hollis Street To A Retail Landscaping Operation. Re-Pavement, New Pavement, And Stormwater Management Facilities Will Be Provided Within The Wetland Buffer Zone.

Jack Visniewski with J.A. Visniewski L.L.C. represented Babin Landscaping. Visniewski presented an ANRAD for the site on June 2, 2020, which was approved. The plan that was shared during the Virtual Meeting identified the wetlands (aqua colored) and the 50' and 100' buffer. The entire site consists of parking and buildings. The only change to the building is a small awning over a garage door. In the front of the building is a cross-hatched area, which will become porous pavers. The area to the right of the building, previously a gravel parking area, will now serve as a location for bins for landscaping materials i.e., sand, gravel, etc. Most bins will remain uncovered with the exception of the salt bin, which must be covered. Roof collectors will divert water to an underground storage area that will be used for watering plants on site. The porous pavers will include layers of gravel and stone below to provide ample room for storage. Water currently travels from right to left (west to east) on the site toward the wetlands, a distance of approximately 400'. Visniewski's proposal is to address the site runoff by addressing it in sections. Cultec subsurface chambers are proposed at the rear of the building, which work with leaching catch basins. Water that flows at the front of the building, not picked up at the porous pavers, will flow to the staff/company vehicle parking area (far left of the site), which will be depressed, to act as a detention basin. There will be two leaching catch basins in this parking area. One leaching catch basin must be relocated because discharges in an outstanding resource water (ORW) cannot be within the 50' buffer. Pre-treatment for 44% is also required. Snow storage cannot be within this area as well and will be addressed. One question raised is whether an NPDES permit is required, which is usually required when more than one acre on a site is disturbed. Visniewski said only half an acre will be disturbed. Rice asked about the spillway within this parking area because the runoff could be diverted, and concentrated, onto an abutter's property. Visniewski responded that he will consider a level spreader, rather than the concentrated spillway design proposed. Rice said there are large piles of mulch currently onsite and asked if they would be placed in the bins. Visniewski said they would be putting the materials in bins proposed. David Babin responded that they may not be putting all of the material in the bins. Rice expressed concern with rain carrying the fines from the mulch piles into the porous pavers during heavy rains. Elliott expressed concern with the use of porous pavers and impacts from vehicles/trucks traveling over the pavers. Dirt and other material from vehicles could build up in the cracks to prevent infiltration. Babin informed the Commission that a vacuum truck would be used once or twice each year to clean the pavers. Terrasi asked about the two gas tanks for refueling on the site. Visniewski stated the Fire Chief and the State Fire Marshal may need to review and approve the gas tanks. Dinsmore asked if there had been a NPDES permit for the Conway Chevrolet business. No one was sure whether there had been. Terrasi will follow up on whether a NPDES permit is required. The Planning Board will hold the Babin Landscaping Public Hearing for a Major Site Plan Review on July 20. The Conservation Commission will continue this Public Hearing to August 4 at 7:10 PM.

3. Review Of Draft Minutes

- A. Review Of Draft Minutes Of June 2, 2020
On a motion from Elliott, seconded by Rand, all
VOTED: to approve the draft Minutes of June 2, 2020, as amended.
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On a motion from Elliott, seconded by Rand, all
VOTED: to approve the draft Minutes of June 2, 2020, as amended.

- B. Review Of Draft Minutes Of June 16, 2020
On a motion from Elliott, seconded by Rand, all
VOTED: to approve the draft Minutes of June 16, 2020, as drafted.

- 4. For Signature: Schedule Of Bills Payable
On a motion from Elliott, seconded by Boeing, all
VOTED: to approve the Bills Payable for \$588 for the MACC Membership fees for FY21.

5. Conservation Administrator's Report

- A. Employee Evaluations - In Line With BOS Priorities And Master Plan Recommendations
Andrew MacLean, Town Administrator, is meeting with staff to complete employee evaluations. The evaluations appear to be focused on the Conservation Commission and goals for the coming year. Each staff person was asked to identify several goals for the coming year that are in line with the BOS priorities and the Master Plan recommendations. While the BOS Priorities fail to mention the town's protected open spaces as assets, the draft Master Plan, which is nearing completion has focused on the value our conservation properties provide to our community from protecting water quality to protecting habitat for wildlife to providing recreational opportunities for visitors to mitigating the impacts from stormwater runoff. The draft Master Plan relied on public visioning sessions and public surveys to identify what Pepperell residents consider important and the message from residents remains the same as it has for years. Pepperell needs to protect the rural character of the town and ensure a balance between development and protecting additional open space. The Commission has been busy during Covid-19 coordinating trail monitors and maintainers and we have seen a large increase in the number of people using the trails and our conservation areas as well as those using the canoe/kayak launch areas. The Commission supports the recommendations identified in the Master Plan to protect the rural character of the town and the Commission's goals for FY21 will focus on protecting additional open spaces and promoting ecotourism so visitors to Pepperell are aware of the many opportunities our open spaces provide.

- B. Level 2 Drought Declared By MassDEP

MassDEP has declared a Level 2 drought. This drought level restricts outdoor watering to handheld methods only.

6. Other Business

- A. Enforcement Order 128 Brookline Street, Restoration Plan
A Restoration Plan for the property at 128 Brookline Street was submitted by Matt Marro of Marro Consulting. While the ground cover list is acceptable, Rice and Dinsmore suggested conifer species rather than arborvitae, which deer are attracted to, and assurance that flowering shrubs selected, be native. Other species were suggested, such as Nine Bark. The Commission would like to see a map to be included with the Restoration Plan, a notation on the Plan showing the acceptable size of the trees and shrubs, and an expected survival rate. Due to the current MassDEP Level 2 drought situation, where watering is restricted, it was suggested that the ground cover be planted now and the trees/shrubs wait until fall, but before November 1.
- B. Request For Certificate Of Compliance - 17 North Street, MassDEP 259-0796
A Request for Certificate of Compliance was submitted, together with an As-built plan and a letter from an engineer stating substantial compliance with the approved plan. Terrasi visited the site and the site is in compliance with the Order of Conditions and the site is stabilized. On a motion from Elliott,

seconded by Rand, all
VOTED: to issue a Certificate of Compliance.

7. Matters That May Be Raised That The Chairman Didn't Reasonably Anticipate
None

Respectfully submitted
Paula Terrasi/Conservation Administrator