

TOWN OF WENHAM

Conservation Commission
Meeting of March 14, 2016
Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30 A, §18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Conservation Commission was held on Monday, MARCH 14, 2016 at 7 PM in the Selectmen Chambers.

With a quorum present, Mr. Colarusso called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

Board Members Present: Philip Colarusso, Chair; Leo Maestranzi; Michael Novak; Robert Burnett; Malcolm Reid

Not Present: Jerome Hunsaker

Also present: Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary

It was noted that Emilie Cademartori, Land Use Coordinator last day was Friday, March 11, 2016.

New Public Hearing

Notice of Intent - Applicant: Spring Hill Ventures

Consultant: Hayes Engineering, Inc.

Location: 77, 79 & 83 Dodges Row

Project: Construct roadway and stormwater infrastructure and utility installation associated with residential subdivision Spring Hill Farm within the 100 foot adjacent upland resource area to a bordering vegetated wetland.

Ms. Cademartori prepared a report that the applicant was appealing directly with the Department of Environmental Protection regarding the storm water plan for the proposed development on the West property, Dodges Row. The applicant will be back before the Commission for the individual lots.

It was not known if the Conservation Commission could appeal a DEP decision.

Extension Request -9 Juniper Street -326-0336

The current extension allowing construction in the buffer zone at 9 Juniper Street expires at the end of March 2016. The homeowner is requesting an extension for phase 3 (screened in porch) of their renovation project. This is the second extension granted.

Vote: Mr. Maestranzi moved and it was seconded to approve an extension through March 14, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

Extension Request - Matthew Power- Nelson Avenue Ext 326-0303

Mr. Powers has had extended legal challenges in obtaining permits to build on this property located off Nelson Ave in Beverly. The property lies both in Beverly and Wenham. Wenham has approved their permitting and he is requesting an extension.

Vote: Mr. Reid moved, and it was seconded, to approve a one-year extension to Mr. Powers as requested. The motion carried by majority vote with one opposition.

Iron Rail Parking Lot Improvements - Hamilton Wenham Youth Soccer (HWYS)

Present for HWYS: Don Lake, President; Michael Byrne, Field Maintenance & Grounds Director –

APPROVED 5.9.16

The HWYS is proposing to improve the parking area for the soccer fields at 91 Grapevine Road. This area is in the buffer zone. The Planning Board has determined this is maintenance.

The proposed plan is to scrape off and remove the top layer of organic soil, cut back brush (no trees) to create a clean line. Organic material will be brought in, carpet placed down, with crushed stone as the top layer.

The wetlands appear to be delineated; this project is not located near this area.

The Commission discussed if work would adversely impact the wetlands. The Commission noted the map of the area being referenced was 20 years old and the wetlands have expanded since this time.

The HWYS was directed to start the paper work for a Notice of Intent (NOI). The Commission agreed a site visit was necessary to make a decision and pending the outcome, it was observed that this might be a Request for a Determination of Applicability (RDA)

Reynolds Farm, Larch Row - Update

Present: Ben Zoba, The Food Project

The Food Project is leasing the Reynolds Farm land on Larch row for the second year.

Mr. Zoba updated the Commission saying clover and rye were grown on the big field last year and the Town provided leaves for composting to ready the fields for farming.

Mr. Zoba reviewed the Food Project's request for town water hook up for drinking and washing/cooling vegetables on site, and requested the Commission consider granting permission this year. Wash tanks have a capacity of 100 gallons. The pond on site is used for irrigation only.

The Food Project would be responsible for "fair costs" of brining the water on site and a meter installed. The Food Project would agree to be responsible for all metered water use including if there were to be a leak or if the water was accidentally left on. It was suggested the use a lock to control access to the water valve.

VOTE: Mr. Reid moved, and it was seconded, to grant permission to the Farm Project to pursue bringing water on site at the Reynolds Farm, Larch Row, with the appropriate Town Department, Board, and /or Commission. The motion carried by majority vote with one opposition.

Administrative Business

- The Commission discussed the hiring of a new Land Use Coordinator. Mr. Maestranzi suggested a hiring committee of the land use boards/ committees be created and offered to serve on that committee. He asked that the Recording Secretary provide minutes of those meetings.
- Conservation Restriction at 36 Essex Street - Notification of property transfer Agency Fund closeout
The Conservation Restriction dated November 23, 2009 for 36 Essex Street, (the Mullen property) is being transferred to the Academy at Penguin Hall. No action was required.
- National Grid Airport Brook clean-up has been completed. No action required.
- Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference is May 2, 2016
- The Swamp walk is May 26, 2016
- The next meeting is March 28, 2016. The interim Coordinator, Tony Field, will attend.

Minutes – *Mr. Maestranzi moved to defer the January 25, 2016 minutes to next meeting and it was unanimous to do so.*

Adjournment - The Commission unanimously adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley
4.25.16