

SOUTHBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009
TOWN HOUSE MEETING ROOM, 2nd fl.
MEETING MINUTES

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Southborough held a meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Southborough Town House, 2nd floor meeting room.

Members Present: John Leeds, Rhonda Russian, Mark Possemato, A.J. Purcell, Dick Upjohn and Russ Gregory.

Absent: Phil Bevins

The meeting commenced at 7:30 p.m. with John Leeds as chairperson. Mr. Leeds left the meeting at 8:30 p.m. and Ms. Russian took over as acting chair.

EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH TOWN COUNSEL TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION:

By roll call vote, the Commission moved to enter into Executive Session with Town Counsel Aldo Cipriano at 7:30 p.m. By roll call vote, the Commission moved to exit Executive Session and re-enter into public session at 8:30 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1. EMC and receipt of revised plans:** EMC's engineering representative, Eric Las of Beals and Thomas, updated the Commission on the status of filings with the town of Westborough. Mr. Las stated the Planning Board process had concluded with both town's Planning Boards, and the Notice of Intent filing before both Conservation Commissions was being reopened. Mr. Las said that Fuss & O'Neill was retained for conservation peer review in Westborough, and Southborough had contracted with them previously. The Commission asked about the scope of the plan revisions, and whether the full buildout of the site was now being included. Mr. Las replied it was a definitive subdivision with roadway only, there are no plans at this time for further buildout and utilities would be installed as part of roadway construction. Mr. Las said the Westborough Conservation Commission was holding their first public hearing the following Tuesday night (1/13/09) after a remand decision from the DEP adjudicatory process. Mr. Las asked the Commission to reconsider the possibility of revising the engineering scope of work that Fuss & O'Neill had been contracted for since engineering review by them had already been completed under the Planning Board review process. Mr. Las asked the Commission to specifically reconsider the following items: site visit, wetland scientist review, and the number of meetings and follow up reviews. Mr. Las said the Westborough proposed scope of work does not contain a wetland scientist review. The Commission acknowledged that the resource area delineation had changed and the vernal pools were now identified on the site plans. The Commission said they need to understand all of the changes made to the plans and suggested the scope of work look at the entire proposal and all calculations (not ending at the town line). The Commission asked to see the Westborough scope of work to ensure consistency between the 2 towns. Mr. Las said that all stormwater collects in Southborough and drains into Westborough. The Commission suggested contacting Westborough about the possibility of having one engineering peer review for both towns as well as to hold one joint meeting to discuss common issues. Mr. Las expressed concern about joint meetings and whether EMC would accept that. The Commission reiterated that consistency between the 2 towns is necessary and the reopening of the continued Notice of Intent hearing would be scheduled for the next meeting on 1/29/09.

2. **Meeting Minutes:** The Commission reviewed the meeting minutes of 12/18/08. Upon motion by Mr. Upjohn, seconded by Mr. Purcell, the Commission voted (5-0) to approve the minutes as written.
3. **Budget:** The Commission reviewed the draft FY10 budget prepared by Conservation Administrator Beth Rosenblum and considered options for reducing it further. Among the items mentioned was a reduction in the hours worked by the Administrator, and to consider the use of remaining monies in the Conservation Fund for the funding of Maintenance and Stewardship of the town's Conservation Properties.
4. **Conservation Scientist:** Resumes and cover letters received from the applicants were distributed. The Commissioners agreed to review and to select their choices for interviews at the next meeting.
5. **MACC Conference:** The annual environmental conference is being held on February 29, 2009 at Holy Cross College. Commissioners were asked to select their workshop choices so that registration forms could be submitted.
6. **20 Learned Street:** Ms. Rosenblum informed the Commission of the request made by DPW and Town Engineer John Woodsmall to the developer of the site, Matt Jackson, to make some drainage improvements in order to prevent further roadway icing conditions. Photos were shown of the driveway and roadway icing. Mr. Jackson has agreed to dig a trench graded towards a catch basin, install a perforated pipe and cover with crushed stone along the front area of the property adjacent to the roadway. Haybales currently in that area will be removed.
7. **Annual Report:** Ms. Rosenblum informed the Commission that a draft of the Annual Report had been completed.

Upon motion by Mr. Upjohn, seconded by Mr. Gregory, the Commission voted (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Rosenblum
Conservation Administrator