

SOUTHBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2009
TOWN HOUSE MEETING ROOM, 2nd fl.
MEETING MINUTES

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Southborough held a meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Southborough Town House, 2nd floor meeting room.

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

Absent: Rhonda Russian and Phil Bevins

The meeting commenced at 7:30 p.m. with Mr. Leeds as chairperson.

REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY, MASS ELECTRIC/DBA NATIONAL GRID, 147 NORTHBORO ROAD, ASSESSORS MAP 71, LOT 7:

Mr. Leeds opened the hearing at 7:30 p.m. Present for the hearing and representing the applicant was Alicia Kabir and a colleague from ERM. Ms. Kabir said this project is a small piece of a larger project that will span 3 towns and will improve electrical coverage. Ms. Kabir said the proposal is to install an underground conduit; all of the work is in the buffer zone and about 80' away from bordering vegetated wetland. Ms. Kabir said the work consists of the installation of two (2), five (5) inch conduits at a depth of 2-3 feet using a backhoe, at the location of the utility pole and manhole. Ms. Kabir said erosion controls will be installed. Mr. Upjohn said that due to the slope, he would like to see a line of haybales along the top of the slope.

Upon motion by Mr. Upjohn, seconded by Mr. Possemato, the Commission voted (5-0) to issue a Negative Determination with the condition that haybales are installed as agreed to along the top of slope.

CONTINUED NOTICE OF INTENT, EMC CORPORATION, CRYSTAL POND ROAD AND COSLIN DRIVE, ASSESSORS MAPS 6, 11, 11, 11, 11, 24, 24, 25, 26, LOTS 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 4A, 9 RESPECTIVELY:

Mr. Leeds opened the public hearing at 7:45 p.m. Present for the hearing were Dan Feeney of Beals and Thomas, Lisa Ferdenzi of EMC Corporation and Leigh Gilligan of McCarter & English. Mr. Feeney stated that since Fuss & O'Neill had not started their review of the project for Southborough yet, he could only update the Commission on the progress being made with the Westborough conservation review. Mr. Feeney said Westborough held a hearing on February 10, 2009 and Mike Gagnon from Fuss & O'Neill (F&O) attended. Mr. Feeney said that three (3) items remain outstanding in Westborough and are being reviewed: 1) downstream culvert analysis that F&O is still reviewing; 2) intermittent stream peak rates; and 3) hydrology to the vernal pool adjacent to Flanders Road.

Mr. Feeney stated that F&O additional comments for Westborough are expected by February 27, 2009 and the next hearing is scheduled for March 10, 2009 with the hope that the hearing will be closed by early April. Mr. Feeney added that the work proposed to repair the Shell Oil culverts will have its own Notice of Intent submitted separately once the approval by the Whittemore family comes through.

Mr. Leeds continued the hearing to March 12, 2009 at 8 p.m.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PERMIT AND NOTICE OF INTENT, ST. MARK'S SCHOOL, 30 MARLBORO ROAD, ASSESSORS MAPS 74 & 53, LOTS 6 & 9:

Mr. Leeds opened the hearing(s) simultaneously at 8:15 p.m. Both Mr. Purcell and Mr. Upjohn offered to recuse themselves from the hearing because of relatives attending St. Mark's. Their offers were refused.

The permit applications were filed for the construction of 2 synthetic turf fields, associated access drives, walkways, drainage and parking stalls within the buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetland. Present for the hearing was Bob Meyer and Jack Cullinen of St. Marks' School, Lee Sollenberger of Design Technologies, and Rebecca Bachand and Megan Buczynski of Stantec. Mr. Meyer informed the Commission the school's goal with this project is to improve the playing field opportunities and flexibility.

Ms. Buczynski presented an overview of the existing conditions and the project proposal. Ms. Buczynski said the existing fields have poor drainage and an AT&T easement cuts thru the area that will require relocation due to the cut and fills. Ms. Buczynski said the proposal includes a gravel access road with pavers for the parking area and a walkway with a combination of bituminous concrete and gravel for emergency vehicles. Ms. Buczynski discussed the proposed grading, drainage and the erosion controls measures, the earthwork involved and that no fill will be brought in, and explained the design of the synthetic turf. The Commission asked whether the fields would be plowed in the winter or during spring storms. Ms. Buczynski replied there are no plans to use or plow the fields during the winter, but if necessary, the 20' edge around the fields can be used to store snow.

Ms. Bachand addressed the comments made by the Town Engineer. The Commission asked for more information regarding the replacement of the AT&T fiber optic cable, the pathway location, the roadway/construction entrance, and the erosion controls. The Commission asked for the fields to be staked prior to visiting the site. The Commission asked if all synthetic fields were created equally. Ms. Buczynski described the different types of synthetic fields (1st generation through 3rd generation), said the field should last between 10-12 years and that a turf vendor had not yet been chosen. The Commission asked about turf infiltration rates and whether out-gassing from the fields could enter into the water. Ms. Buczynski responded the infiltration rates should be the same irregardless of the type of turf and that the water is clean coming out.

Mr. Leeds ended the hearing at 8:50 p.m. and continued it to March 12, 2009 at 8:30 p.m.

AMEND SOUTHBOROUGH WETLANDS REGULATIONS, CREATE LOCAL FILING FEE SCHEDULE:

Mr. Leeds opened the public hearing at 8:50 p.m. The Commission reviewed the proposed filing fee schedule prepared by Ms. Rosenblum and spent considerable time discussing the fees for a Request for Determination. Mr. Possemato brought the Commission up to date on the budget meeting with the Advisory Committee and their expectation that the Conservation Commission should have sufficient fees in place to fully operate the department. The Commission agreed to make some changes to the fee schedule, and to reconsider the overall fee schedule at the next meeting given the comments of Advisory.

Mr. Leeds continued the hearing to March 12, 2009.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. **Meeting Minutes:** Upon motion by Mr. Upjohn, seconded by Mr. Gregory, the Commission voted (5-0) to approve the minutes of 1/8/09 as written.
2. **EMC Task Authorization:** The Commission reviewed the revisions made to the peer review scope of work by Fuss & O'Neill based on agreements made at the prior meeting with representative of EMC. The Commission agreed the revised Task Authorization accurately reflected the revisions discussed, and agreed to have Chairman Leeds sign it on the Commission's behalf.

Upon motion by Mr. Upjohn, seconded by Mr. Possemato, the Commission voted (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Rosenblum
Conservation Administrator