

SOUTHBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2009
TOWN HOUSE MEETING ROOM, 2nd fl.
MEETING MINUTES

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Southborough held a meeting on Thursday, June 25, 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, Phil Bevins, Russ Gregory and Rhonda Russian.

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

CONTINUED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PERMIT AND CONTINUED NOTICE OF INTENT – PETER KWAN, 28 NEWTON STREET, ASSESSORS MAP 65, LOTS 13 & 15:

Mr. Leeds opened the hearing at 7:35 p.m. and asked Ms. Russian to chair since he had missed the previous hearing. Present for the hearing was Desheng Wang from Carr Research Laboratory. Distributed at the hearing was a memo from John Woodsmall granting his approval of the revised Operation & Maintenance plan and Easement Plan (also distributed at the hearing). Mr. Woodsmall's memo stated that Town Counsel had reviewed the Plans and given his approval. Mr. Wang stated that the NPDES and DEP permits will be submitted once the Order of Conditions has been issued by the Commission. Mr. Upjohn acknowledged the wetland flags had been re-marked as requested, but was still concerned about the delineation in one area. Mr. Wang reiterated that the Commission issued an Order of Resource Area Delineation in 2008 that remains active, and the field delineation reflects that permit approval. Seeing no further questions from the Commission or the audience, Ms. Russian closed both the Notice of Intent hearing and the Stormwater Management Permit hearing. Due to the late submission by the Applicant of the O&M Plan and Easement Plan, a draft SMP Decision could not be written in time for the Commission to review at the hearing. It was decided to review and vote on the SMP at the following meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Upjohn, seconded by Ms. Russian, the Commission voted (7-0) to approve a standard Order of Conditions (+38h) with Special Conditions: the approval is contingent upon the execution and recording of the Easement Plan; all work will be done outside the 20' No Disturb Zone; a pre-construction meeting is required; a stone construction pad shall be installed to prevent the tracking of dirt onto the roadway; catch basins shall be protected and maintained; discharges to tributary to ORW will require proof of permit submittals to other agencies; dewatering requirements and snow storage restrictions.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. **Request to Remove Trees at 5 Southwood Drive:** Mike Gorman of 5 Southwood Drive submitted an informal request to the Commission to remove several poplar trees from his yard. Some of the trees are across the road from the stormwater detention pond, and 2 of them are at the top of a slope adjacent to a stream and wetlands. Mr. Gorman said that many of the poplar trees planted within the development have fallen and their roots are exposed. Mr. Gorman said he would like to replace the trees with pines or other evergreens. Mr. Upjohn said he feels it is okay to remove the trees along the Beechwood side of the property, but those on top of the slope are likely within the 20' No Disturb Zone. Mr. Upjohn said he understood why the homeowner wants the trees to come down, but he is concerned about slope erosion if they are

removed without a clear plan. Mr. Purcell agreed the street trees were okay to remove, but the 2 trees at the top of the slope may impact the slope stability if they are removed. Mr. Gregory echoed that sentiment and said the slope must be stabilized. Mr. Gregory added that pine trees present many of the same problems as poplars; they are fast growing, weak, and have a large root system. Mr. Bevins suggested white cedar as a possibility. The Commissioners agreed that Mr. Gorman would need to file a permit request for the removal of the 2 trees at the top of the slope within the 20' No Disturb Zone, and added a well-thought out plan to remove them and restore the slope area must include a request for a waiver from the local bylaw. Mr. Bevins also suggests that a long term maintenance plan and soil erosion protection plan be considered. Mr. Gorman asked the Commission what action he would be allowed if a tree fell into the wetlands. The Commission replied it should be left alone, unless the root system was torn up. The Commission informed Mr. Gorman he can remove the trees along Beechwood, but he must present a permit request accompanied by engineered plans and a slope restoration plan if he chooses to go forward with the tree removal request at the top of the slope.

2. **Stewardship Committee and Invasive Control at Breakneck Hill Conservation Land:** Ms. Rosenblum informed the Commission of the proposal submitted by Polatin Ecological Services and approved by the Stewardship Committee for invasive plant control and weeding at the conservation land. The contract requires Commission approval. Upon motion by Ms. Russian, seconded by Mr. Upjohn, the Commission voted (7-0) to accept the recommendation of the Stewardship Committee to hire Polatin Ecological Services to provide herbicide and weed management at Breakneck Hill Conservation Land.
3. **Meeting Minutes:**
 - a. The minutes of May 14, 2009 were reviewed. Upon motion by Mr. Upjohn, seconded by Ms. Russian, the Commission voted (6-0-1 with Mr. Gregory abstaining) to accept the minutes as written.
 - b. The minutes of June 14, 2009 were reviewed. Upon motion by Mr. Upjohn, seconded by Ms. Russian, the Commission voted (6-0-1 with Mr. Leeds abstaining) to accept the minutes as written.
4. **Commission appointment to Stewardship Committee:** Mr. Bevins informed the Commission that he is not seeking reappointment as the Commission's representative to the Stewardship Committee. The Commission unanimously appointed Mr. Purcell to replace him.
5. **Welcome Conservation Scientist Ellen Chagnon:** The Commission formally welcomed on-call environmental consultant Ellen Chagnon. Commissioners discussed their priorities for her work assignments. Ms. Chagnon agreed to spend next Tuesday in the Conservation office with Ms. Rosenblum to get updated on ongoing permits and projects.
6. **Planning Board request for comments – Fay School and Cleary Road:** The Commission reviewed the subdivision proposal for Cleary Road and the Fay School requested site plan amendment. The Commission agreed that the alternative driveway design for Cleary Road was preferable to the standard proposal due to the reduction of impervious surface, and added that a portion of the house and drainage system are within the 100' buffer so the applicant would need to file a Notice of Intent. Regarding the amendment to the Fay School parking plans, the Commission said that the approved SMP clearly states that an applicant must inform them of any plan changes being proposed so that the Commission can decide if the changes are

significant enough to warrant an amended SMP or not, and asks that Fay School appear at the next meeting to discuss the proposed amended plans.

7. A Commissioner noticed that many 18 wheel dump trucks are being parked in the former bus parking lot at the corner of Route 85 and Mt. Vickery Rd. and asked Ms. Rosenblum to alert the Building Inspector and to investigate whether it is an allowed use.

Upon motion by Ms. Russian, seconded by Mr. Gregory, the Commission voted (7-0) to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Rosenblum
Conservation Administrator