

**CITY OF FITCHBURG
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2019**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE: Bryan Breau, John Cordio, Mike Donnelly, Harry Karis, John Koutonen, Mary Helene (Associate member), Ralph Baker (associate member)

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Tim Smith, Mike O'Hara

Guests: Matt Charpentier

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 6:02 at the Fitchburg Municipal Airport, 567 Crawford St., Administration Building, Room 106.

Bryan (sitting in for Tracey) read an introduction stating the mission statement of the Commission, and the role & responsibilities of the Conservation Commission and the eight interests of the Wetlands Protection Act.

MINUTES

Minutes of the August 6th meeting approved.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Amended Notice of Intent - Garden Remedies, Inc. 307 Airport Rd. - revised greenhouse

Hearing opened. Pat McCarty, McCarty Engineering presented plan.

Last year the Commission issued OOC #155-676 which proposed a series of greenhouses (hoop houses) at the rear of the site, to be located on crushed stone. That work was never started. Garden Remedies' current proposal is to construct a 32,256 sq. ft. greenhouse in the same area. The greenhouse will have a poured 4-foot high concrete foundation, a concrete slab on grade, and a tubular steel frame with glass walls & roof. Finish floor elevation of greenhouse will be one foot above the Base Flood Elevation.

Compensatory flood storage will be provided via a series of 36-inch diameter HDPE pipes surrounded by crushed stone below the slab. They did numerous soil borings on site – result: all sand & gravel up to 25 feet deep. Seasonal high groundwater 12-15 feet below existing grade.

Floodwaters can enter the 36-inch pipes, and be infiltrated thru the crushed stone below the slab. Flood storage on the site will increase by 71,000 cu ft. Table on sheet 2 of plan shows the proposed filling and compensatory flood storage provided on a foot-by-foot basis. There will be trash racks on the inlet pipes. There will need to be pest control to keep critters out of the infiltration pipes.

Public comment: None.

Motion made & seconded to close hearing. Vote in favor.

Motion made (Mike D.) & seconded (Harry) to issue Order of Conditions with standard special conditions, including submission of a Stormwater Mgmt. Operations & Maintenance plan for Commission's review & approval. Vote 5-0 in favor.

Notice of Intent - Lahti, single-family dwelling in Buffer Zone, 801 New West Townsend Rd.

Hearing opened. Eric Lahti and MaryAnn DiPinto, Three Oaks Environmental presented plan.

This is the last of the lots that were created from the former tree farm last year. Proposed is a single-family dwelling w/ driveway, septic & well. Maximum extent of site work is 35 feet into the 100-foot buffer. Buffer zone is all field - - former agricultural use. No trees to cut.

They are using existing cart road for access to proposed house. After dwelling is built, area will be loamed & hydroseeded.

Public comment: None.

Commission comments: Plan shows existing topography but not proposed.

MaryAnn: Proposed topo is substantially the same as existing.

Seasonal high groundwater? No observed groundwater @ 10 feet down. Deep hole was done in April.

MaryAnn: Soils are sandy, bony gravel.

Motion made & seconded to close hearing. Vote in favor.

Motion made (Mike D.) & seconded (Harry) to issue Order of Conditions with standard Special Conditions.

Vote 5-0 in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Minor modification OOC #155-678, Araujo, 160 Stickney Rd., revised house location

Josue Araujo in to present slightly revised plan from the one the Commission approved in October 2018 for Panagiotis. Josue recently acquired lot. On plan revised 7/31/19: Footprint of bldg. changed, grading on lot modified to make a more usable back yard, encroachment into buffer zone pretty much the same. Motion made & seconded to approve this minor revision to plan. Vote in favor.

Informal - Unitil, relocation of gas main in Riverfront Area and 100-year floodplain

Ken Stanley, Tri-Mont Engineering present to informally discuss plan for relocating Unitil's gas main which is also in danger of being undermined from the migration of the Riverbank, as with the treatment plant's water line.

Unitil is their client. The gas line was installed to the then-new plant in the 1970s. They are proposing to cap and abandon the old line in place once a new connection to the plant is made by using Horizontal Directional Drilling. A 6-inch diameter casing pipe will be drilled under the river and a 4-inch gas pipe placed within that sleeve. They will drill from the Crawford St. side as steep an angle as they can to get to a depth of 16 feet below the bottom of the river.

Mike D. noted that they should carry the 16-foot depth under not only the current location of the riverbed but under the future location of the river's path as it continues to meander.

Tri-Mont will be submitting a filing for the September meeting.

38 Turkey Hill Rd. - consultant report

Nancy Despres and Michael Robichaud present. Commission reviewed Tim's report on his site visit. While he found some wetlands vegetation on the adjacent property at 717 Mt. Elam Road, the area wasn't large enough to be jurisdictional under either the WPA or the Local Wetlands Ordinance. Agreed: Fill for 2nd driveway is OK & can stay. Existing pre-fab shed is OK, but no further encroachment is permitted w/o submitting a plan to the Commission.

Associate Member - Appointment

Motion made (Bryan) & seconded (John K.) to designate Matt Charpentier as an Associate Member of the Commission. Vote 5-0 in favor.

Extension request - OOC #155-646, Edgewater Homes, 0 Rindge Rd., SFD

Applicant requested that item be postponed since he was not available to attend meeting.

Certificates of Compliance (expired)

Certificates of Compliance were issued on the following projects which never started & have since expired. Since the OOCs were recorded at the Registry of Deeds, best to also have these Certificates recorded so that the land records don't show incorrect information & it appears that these are still valid projects.

- 155-527, 0 Stickney Rd, Panagiotis
- 155-558, Fairmount & Depot Sts., Labell
- 155-606 & 155-607, 340 Ashburnham Hill Rd., Ferrebee
- 155-527, 0 Stickney Rd, Panagiotis

September meeting date

Mike D. noted that at the revised date for the September meeting date (Thursday, Sept. 26th) both he and Tracey would be unable to attend. The rest of the Commission should be able to attend. Also, by that date, Mary will have been appointed as a full member

Motion made & seconded to adjourn. Vote in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 7:39 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, 9/26/19

Minutes approved: 9/26/19