



Town of Boylston Conservation Commission conservation@boylston-ma.gov
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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 16, 2020

Members Present: Joe McGrath, Jeffrey Walsh

Members via Remote: Dan Duffy, Mark Coakley, Chip Burkhardt

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dick Malcom (CSL Consulting); Pat Burke (WDA Design Group)

Recorder: Melanie Rich

Joe McGrath, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, announced that the meeting tonight was using new technology for situations across the state and the emergency declarations. He explained that the meeting (thanks to Brittany Blaney-Anderson and the WBAC staff) was being broadcast live on community cable, and several commissioners will be participating via teleconference approved by the state under a temporary act of the Open Meeting Law to allow the commissioners to still constitute a quorum.

Commissioner Roll Call was taken: via remote, Mark Coakley, Dan Duffy and Chip Burkhardt. In the meeting room was Joe McGrath, Jeff Walsh and Melanie Rich.

Mr. McGrath announced that only three items would be addressed tonight: two Tower Hill continued hearings, one extension permit, and housekeeping issues. All other commission business is postponed. Applicants were not allowed to approach the table but could remain in the front row; any plans were to be put on the easel. People were told to email Mr. McGrath (jmcgrath@boylston-ma.gov) with any questions.

PUBLIC HEARING – 11 French Drive (Tower Hill Botanic Garden) – Stormwater Control Permit Application to redevelop The Ramble, Plinny's Allee, Parking Lot and Stoddard Connection at Tower Hill Botanic Garden.

Michelle Kayserman (Samiotes Consulting) and Laura Knosp (Ryan Associates) participated remotely. Patrick Burke (WDA Design Group) and Dick Malcom (CSL Consulting) were present. Ms. Kayserman addressed peer review comments from Graves Engineering dated March 3, 2020; revised plans were submitted 3/12/2020. On March 13, 2020, Graves provided another peer review comment letter addressing The Ramble. She emailed responses to the office and Graves Engineering and addressed them as follows: (1) the underdrain name have been revised; (2) the proposed contours have been added; (3) hydrology calculations have been revised to reflect soil group D for Chatfield-Hollis-Rock soils, the drainage design did not have to be modified; (4) hydrologic soil group boundaries have been added to the drainage area maps; (5)

they added how much soil should be around each drywell on the detail sheet; (6) Graves Engineering agreed that a single analysis point is appropriate; (7) a construction entrance has been added to the plans; (8) time of concentration flow paths have been added to the plan; (9) they revised the hydrology calculations; they did not have to revise the stormwater system; (10) piping size calculations were provided; (11) paving details for the porous pavement were added; (12) rip rap detail was added to the pop-up overflow; (13) owner's information and signature was provided; (14) locus map was added; (15) the stormwater report (cover and inside) has been stamped and signed by a professional engineer; (16) they did not have test pits within the infiltrating BMPs and requested if they could have a conditional approval to do test pits during construction because currently it is very difficult to get equipment in and out and they do not want to damage any tree roots of trees that are staying in place. They will have a licensed soil evaluator on site to review it and if the soils are different than what is from the borings or the USGS soils report, they would revise the drainage at that time. Graves' comment was that it should also include a 2-foot separation to groundwater when the test pits are done. (17) an owner-signed agreement has been added to the Operation and Maintenance Plan; (18) a draft SWPPP that covers the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan has been included as one document. It is included in the Ramble and Pliny's SWPPP for the parking lot and Stoddard Entrance. Mr. McGrath asked if it was in the Stormwater Report. Ms. Kayserman said the Stormwater Report has an Operation and Maintenance Plan and the owner signed agreement of the O&M; the SWPPP was standalone. (19) the missing sheet was added; (20) the table of contents was added; (21) the pop-up overflow has been added to the legend; (22) revised calculations and plans were submitted to Graves. The comment was that the existing and proposed areas within the C group and D groups were not adding up correctly; the hydroCAD model has been revised that the C & D soil areas between existing and proposed match; the impervious areas have been labeled correctly.

Mr. McGrath asked if the exemption for the test pits during construction was a Planning Board issue. Ms. Kayserman said the plans are not before the Planning Board; she thought that as part of the stormwater permit regulations they have to show the soils classification which is usually confirmed in the field and is asking to be allowed to confirm the soil classification at the time of construction. She was asked if she wanted the Commission to add it as a Special Condition; she said yes. Mr. McGrath said they are still waiting for comments from Graves about the parking lot extension; yes. He asked if they anticipate any major changes in their preliminary discussions as a result of waiting for Graves review. She said the design team had a meeting with Graves and it appeared everyone was in agreement. Mr. Burke (WDA Design Group) said he is not anticipating any changes from the Graves review; he said they met with Graves on March 6th and reviewed each separate item and addressed them all.

Mr. McGrath asked for Commissioner comments. Mr. Duffy asked what is the process we would follow if the soils are found not consistent with the current plan during the test pits and evaluator finds something different than they relied on for the design. They will already be in construction so coming back to us with a revised design might not be timely. Ms. Kayserman said right now they are being extremely conservative in the design, most of the site is D soils, some are C soils. In terms of the process, and has been in their past experience, said they would do test pits as early as possible and evaluate the soils, submit the test logs to the

Commission, and if the C soils are worse than the D soils, they would enter it into their model and re-evaluate whether the current stormwater design can accommodate those soils and; if not, they would have to redesign the system. She feels they could accommodate any change in soils. If there are any groundwater issues, there are low profile drywells so they could add more stone; it would change the shape of the system, not the concept of the design. Mr. Walsh said testing in the early construction phase allows for some time for the engineer to evaluate whether or not they have to go to low profile and redesign the infiltration facility and plan modification; he would consider a minor modification, but it should come before the Commission. Mr. McGrath said he understands the process that if there is a change, either it could be submitted to the Commission as a minor field change or, if it is a significant change, they would need to have a revised Stormwater Permit. Mr. Walsh said when the testing information becomes available, the applicant's team should forward it to Graves Engineering for review and report back to the Commission as to the results. Mr. Duffy said the results need to be submitted to the Commission as they happen along with the applicable recommendations or any modifications if necessary. He asked would Graves review satisfy our need to approve anything other than submitted with the as-built plans. Mr. Walsh said it could be minor in nature but worthy of review on behalf of the Commission by the consultants.

Mr. McGrath said there were no abutter emails received at this point. We will not have final plans on the parking lot area until Graves does their review, but do not anticipate any changes to those plans or to the layout or expansion of the area. Chip Burkhardt made a motion to close the public hearing; Mark Coakley seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved. Joe McGrath made a motion to issue Stormwater Control Permit SCP 2020-1 for the Tower Hill project that includes the Ramble, Pliny's Alley, the parking lot and Stoddard Connection with a Special Condition that the soil for the drywells be reported to the Commission at the beginning of construction prior to continuing the work and that the permit is not released until the Commission receives final plans and review information from Graves Engineering; Jeff Walsh seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved. The permit will be sent to the members participating remotely for their signature.

PUBLIC HEARING (continued) – 11 French Drive (Tower Hill Botanic Garden) – Notice of Intent Application and Stormwater Control Permit Application to redevelop the Tower Hill Botanic Garden main entrance off French Drive.

The applicant requested a continuance (DEP #115-425). Joe McGrath made motion to accept the request for continuance; Jeff Walsh seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved. It was continued to April 27th at 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Consider issuing an Extension Permit for DEP#115-386 (58 Mill Road) Jim Rotti – Dan Duffy made a motion to issue a one-year extension; Jeff Walsh seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

April 27th was tentatively confirmed as the meeting date.

Joe McGrath made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes dated February 24, 2020; Mark Coakley seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

Greenleaf Property (Route 140) Drainage Issue –Steve Mero (Highway Dept Superintendent) explained the situation at the back entrance of the property; he will tell the applicant to file for a Stormwater Permit.

A Stormwater Permit application was received from Mike May which will be on the April agenda.

Dragon 88 Update has not responded to the Enforcement Order which was sent by certified mail. Melanie will send it by email to Albert Chow.

Jeff Walsh made a motion to adjourn; Dan Duffy seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.