



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

FEBRUARY 17, 2015

Members Present: Mark Coakley, Jeff Walsh, Joe McGrath

Members Absent: Chip Burkhardt, Shannon Holgate

Others Present: See Attached Sign-In Sheet

Recorder: Melanie Rich

PUBLIC HEARING – (John Gregoire – MWRA), Intersection of Route 70 and Route 62 (Willow Road) – Notice of Intent and Stormwater Control Application for the removal of trees and woody vegetation within the 100' buffer zone of BVW on the South Dike of the Wachusett Dam to meet dam safety requirements.

John Gregoire (MWRA), Jon Andrews and Michelle Simoneaux (GZA) were present. Mr. Gregoire was before the Commission in August and explained the clearing that would take place per the Office of Dam Safety. Ms. Simoneaux said the focus is on the south dike (eastern portion of the Wachusett reservoir) with 1.3 acres of tree clearing to take place. The existing wetlands were delineated. There is a cast iron culvert that drains the wetlands under the road to the other side of Route 70 into another wetland. Ms. Simoneaux showed the detail for the limit of clearing and the erosion control measures. There will be a temporary 12' access road from the gatehouse which will be lined with erosion controls. There will be a materials management area where the trees will be taken for chipping or transport off site. Joe McGrath asked if they are subject to the Asian Longhorned Beetle rules that are in effect in the town. Mr. Gregoire said they have a specification for the chipping with regard to the ALB. If they are taken by a contractor, they will need to be inspected by the ALB. After clearing, the void will be backfilled and hydroseeded.

Mr. Andrews said there are a number of potentially detrimental impacts with trees on dams, e.g., a tree falls down leaving a void which could have an impact on the stability of the dam; roots spread out and look for water and rot when the tree dies, leaving a pathway; and without trees it would be easier for the MWRA surveillance program to conduct inspection evaluations, along with less formal inspections by DCR, MWRA personnel and the general public.

Joe McGrath questioned the natural ponding area and asked what the effect would be on the amount of water that gets collected with the removal of trees. Ms. Simoneaux said it is primarily the same. Equipment will be stored in a staging area outside the 100' buffer. The stumps will be pulled. Mark Coakley asked if they plan to keep the snow fence. Mr. Gregoire said they are working with Mass Highway and it is an annual project where they keep the stakes in place and put the fencing up each year. He said it is lower and may not require it, but Mark suggested they consider it and talk to Mass Highway because it is a dangerous area. Joe McGrath made a motion to close the Public Hearing; Mark Coakley seconded the motion; all agreed; motion approved. Joe McGrath made a motion to issue SCP#2015-1 for the project; Mark Coakley

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seconded the motion; all agreed; motion approved. Mark Coakley made a motion to issue a standard Order of Conditions with Special Conditions 21-33; Joe McGrath seconded the motion; all agreed; motion approved. Documents will be forwarded after receipt of the advertising fee.

Ms. Simoneaux informed the Commission that they have filed simultaneously with MESA. She will inform the Commission if there are changes that would impact the project.

Mark Coakley noted that the filing was listed as a limited project. Ms. Simoneaux said that was originally when work was in the wetlands. For the record, Ms. Simoneaux asked to withdraw that request to be classified as a limited project.

Compass Pointe (Status Report) – There has been no response to an email on February 10th asking Steven Venincasa for a report of the progress on his negotiations with the bank and also what transpired at Planning Board meeting. The bond issue will be tabled to next month.

Brett Sarno (30 Stiles Road) – Mr. Sarno was told at the last meeting to notify the office by email as to the progress made with the engineer by the time of tonight's meeting. He has not contacted the office. The Building Department will be notified that he is in violation in the event he applies for a building permit.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

There were no vouchers for approval tonight.

Joe McGrath made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes dated January 20, 2015 with amendments; Mark Coakley seconded; all agreed; motion approved.

March 16th was confirmed as the date for the next meeting.

Jeff Walsh attended the budget meeting. The Finance Committee said they would take under advisement and make a decision to add the increase in hours to the budget for Melanie after all budget requests are reviewed.

Pleasant Hill Farms (Stormwater and Drainage Structures Maintenance) – Eric Brown, President of the Homeowners Association, Susan Snay and Laurie Levy were in attendance. They were asked to attend to make them aware that it is the Homeowners Association responsibility to maintain the stormwater structures. They were given a template of an Operation & Maintenance Plan (basin maintenance) they could use as a guide for best management practices. It was suggested cleaning be done in the spring and continue with regular maintenance. Mr. Brown said they hold yearly meetings and are aware of their obligations. They were asked to give an update to the Commission in May. Ms. Levy asked if Planning Board and Conservation could work together to make the language in the O&M easier for residents to understand. She was told she would need to contact Town Counsel since he is the one who drafts the agreement.

Jeff Walsh made a motion to adjourn; Joe McGrath seconded the motion; all voted in favor; motion approved. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:50 p.m.