



PAXTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

February 9, 2017

Location and Time: John Bauer Senior Center 7:30-9:30pm

7:30 PM Meeting opened

Attendance:

Commissioners: Michael Voorhis, Vice Chair; Robert Ferguson, Commissioner; Lenny Anderson, Commissioner, Donmarie Desrosiers, Commissioner; Jim Robert, Commissioner; Holly Robert, Assoc. Member; Caitlin Carey, Assoc. Member.

Absent: Chris Keenan, Chairman; Tim Luring, Commissioner;

Others present: Julie Votruba of NEEDS, Mark Love, resident, Mia McDonald, Cons. Agent.

Minutes: Minutes of 1/12/17 meeting were reviewed and accepted with no corrections. Motion to accept by JR, seconded by DD; all voted in favor to accept the minutes as written.

Bills: MM payroll bill; JR motioned and LA seconded; all voted in favor of paying the bill.

Correspondence:

Accounts Summary from Treasurer
MA Land Conservation Conference from MA Land Trust Coalition
MACC Conference Scholarship
Email from Judy Schmidt from MA DEP offering new commissioner training
Arbor Day – email from Bob Wilby
E-MACC listed Keystone Training and Fundamentals for CC
Letter from Planning Board re: Richards Ave stormwater permit
BOH plan for 56 Davis Hill Road
BOH plan for Pleasant St Coyne property

Notice of Intent for Lot 1 Pleasant Street, DEP File #257-304 from Christopher Coyne (not present) represented by Julian Votruba of New England Environmental Design. The project is a proposed single family home within the buffer of a bordering vegetated wetland; site contains limited entrance from Pleasant St due to shape of lot and wetland; haybales and siltation fencing proposed for erosion control barrier; a 12-inch HDPE pipe is shown under the driveway for drainage, LA requested drainage calculations to confirm size is adequate, HR requested a cross-section of the pipe.

New information presented at hearing: the owner would like to clear vegetation between the house and the pond. New site plan submitted showing large cleared area. Due to the size of the clearing, a stormwater permit may be required from the town; the Commission requested a vegetated buffer is left between the pond and the lawn; the Commission also requested that any trees greater than 6-inch diameter at breast height that are to be removed within 100 feet of the resource areas be marked on the plans. HR requested that streams on the parcel are placed on the plan. The Commission discussed the grading near the front of the driveway and due to steep slope request that 6"+ riprap is placed along the slope.

The wetland delineation had not been confirmed due to snow cover. The applicant was informed that they can request a decision based on the information available. Mr. Votruba requested a continuance to the March 9 meeting. A motion to continue the hearing was made by JR and seconded by DD.

Draft Bylaw Hearing

A powerpoint presentation was delivered on the bylaw, including the 3 areas in which the bylaw is more restrictive than the state law: create a wetland setback area:

- (a) 15-foot setback of no disturbance and 30-foot setback for all permanent structures (See: Section VII. Permits & Conditions);
- (b) increase the required replication ratio from 1.5:1 to 2:1 (See: Section VIII. Replication, Replacement, Mitigation); and
- (c) implement fines for enforcement and increase fees for after-the-fact filings (See: Section IV. Enforcement and VI. Application and Fees).

It was suggested by the Commission to add information to the presentation on the purpose of the Conservation Commission and the enforcement of the MA Wetlands Protection Act. It was also suggested that a list of current exemptions from MA WPA is somehow included in presentation. MM stated that additional information will be hard to convey at Town Meeting due to limited time.

Mr. Love was present and offered comments on clarity and definition, including:

- a. adding 3 restrictions to beginning of bylaw,
- b. define "legally in existence"
- c. further define exemptions to include "grandfathering"

Mr. Love offered to share his comments via email if edited version was sent to him.

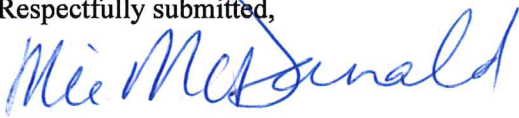
The Commission made the following changes to further define more restrictive goals, removed vague statements and shall try to further define legally in existence.

The version presented at the hearing is attached to these minutes.*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 9, 2017 at the White Building at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Mia McDonald,
Agent for the Conservation Commission

Reference Documents:

*As noted in the minutes, on file with the Paxton Conservation Commission.

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