



Town of Westminister

11 SOUTH STREET
MASSACHUSETTS 01473

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Phone: (978) 874-7413 * Fax: (978) 874-7411

MINUTES OF MEETING December 7, 2023

The meeting was held in room 222 in Westminister Town Hall.

To: Selectmen
Board of Health
Building Commissioner
Town Clerk

Present: Chairman Dan Bartkus, Members: Tim Sheehan, Anthony Maressa, Carrie Monty and Secretary Susan Kalagher

Absent: Vic Pelletier, Matt Marro

Guests: Hailey Page, John M. Deline Jr. John Plifka, Troy Rich

Plans, Documents and Other Exhibits

Plan 83 West Princeton Road
Plan 76 Worcester Road
Plan & Photos West Princeton Road / Meetinghouse Pond gatehouse
Plan 31 North Shore Drive
Photo 32 Honeybee Lane
Plan 69 Old Oak Avenue
Forest Cutting Plan Map Knower Road / J. VanDyke Barkley Enterprises
Land Grant 80 acres Ashburnham State Road

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm in room 222 of Westminister Town Hall by Chairman Dan Bartkus. The meeting was not recorded.

CONTINUED NOIs – PENDING ISSUANCE OF DEP #

1. 83 West Princeton Road / Vanderhoof & Rielly
2. 76 Worcester Road / Arsenault

NOI
West Princeton Road Meetinghouse Pond Gatehouse Rehabilitation Project
John Deline / Fitchburg DPW Water Division

The public hearing was opened. John Deline of Fitchburg DPW Water Division and Hailey Page of Weston & Sampson Engineers Inc. explained the project. The project includes rehabilitation of the Meetinghouse Pond Gatehouse a main source of water for the City of Fitchburg. Scope of work will include rehabilitation of the gatehouse, erosion protection, installation of a propane generator, construction of a new paved access path to the gatehouse for routine maintenance, a new air diffuser system in the intake channel, and extension/replacement of traveling screen. This is a limited project and is exempt from the 25 ft. no disturb zone. A fence will be placed around the facility and security cameras will be added. Impact to the riverfront, both temporary and permanent were discussed. DEP did not have any adverse comments and Mr. Deline expects the project to go out to bid this winter with work expected next summer to fall. There were no questions from the audience. The project was unanimously approved upon motion by Tim Sheehan and second by Carrie Monty.

NOI
31 North Shore Road
Young

The public hearing requested by Kevin Young of Young Landscapes for property owned by John Normandin of 31 North Shore Road was opened. John Pflika of McCarty Engineering, Inc. represented the applicant and gave the overview of the project and provided proof of notification of abutters. The project includes the replacement of a concrete retaining wall with a crushed stone base at the water's edge with a modular block retaining wall and a patio. Access from the driveway was discussed with concern that heavy equipment may be traveling over the septic system which was not noted on the plan. Work will take place when Wyman Pond is drawn down and should be completed in 1-2 weeks. After review, Anthony Maressa made a motion to approve with conditions with a second by Tim Sheehan and all in favor. The public hearing was closed.

RFD
69 Old Oak Avenue
Henault

The public meeting was opened and John Plifka of McCarty Engineers represented the applicant and gave the overview of the project for the repair of a septic system at 69 Old Oak Avenue situated on Wyman Pond. It was determined that the existing system was in failure. A geomat leaching system, a denite septic tank and pump chamber will be installed. The system is proposed for the same location outside the 50 ft. buffer. The advanced technology of the system was discussed. The plan was reviewed and unanimously approved as a negative determination with a motion by Tim Sheehan and second by Anthony Maressa. The public meeting was closed.

RFD
32 Honeybee Lane
Gant

The meeting was continued as no one was present to review the project.

ENFORCEMENT: Knowler Road Cutting Plan

The Enforcement Order issued by Conservation Agent Matt Marro for tree removal within the buffer zone in exceedance of a prior forest cutting approval was discussed. The property is located on Knowler Road and the cutting plan was issued to Jamison VanDyke of Barkley Enterprises LLC. A considerable area was harvested that was excluded from the cutting plan and some work took place within the buffer. Troy Rich from Graz Engineering, LLC presented a NOI plan of the proposed work to move forward. The plan identified an area where stockpiling soil and stumps were located along with wetland buffers. The Commission had many questions, including will the applicant need a permit to move material and noted that Mr. VanDyke intended to bury the stumps. It was emphasized that burying stumps is not allowed; stumps may be ground or hauled off site. Improvement to the logging road was discussed. Matt Marro will inspect the site and check for siltation, stockpiling in the buffer and erosion problems and will continue to monitor the work. The Commission unanimously voted to ratify the Enforcement Order and requested that the applicant move forward with submitting an NOI and that Mr. VanDyke be present at the public hearing.

LAND AGREEMENT

A second signed copy, required by the state for the Land Grant Agreement approved by the Conservation Commission to accept the land acquisition agreement for the Town to accept approximately 80+/- acres of land including any buildings thereon located at 216 Ashburnham State Road was signed.

MINUTES

The Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the meeting from November 16, 2023

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned with all in favor at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Bartkus
Chairman
(prepared by Susan Kalagher)