



Town of Westminster

11 SOUTH STREET
MASSACHUSETTS 01473

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

MINUTES MEETING September 17, 2013

**To: Selectmen
Board of Health
Building Commissioner
Planning Board
Highway Department
Town Clerk**

Present: Chairman Dan Bartkus, Co-Vice Chairs: Gary Smith, Gregg Buckman, Members: Robert Gendron, Tim Sheehan, John Regan, Agent Bob Maki, Secretary Susan Kalagher

Absent: none

Guests: Paul Daniello, Chris Mossman, Ed Snyder, Jr., Edward J. Snyder, Mark Gauthier, Holly Palmgren, Melissa Green, Josh clogston, Sean Heale, Anthony Vitale

Documents and other Exhibits:

1. Davis Road, Lot 2
2. 67 Bean Porridge Hill Road
3. Noyes Pond Dam off Lanes Road
4. MBTA bridge repair
5. Old Town Farm Road
6. 8 Winters Drive

Dan Bartkus opened the Meeting at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was not recorded.

Engman Conservation Restriction – Bragg Hill Road

Paul Daniello requested that Dan Bartkus sign a document for the tax credit for the Engman Conservation Restriction. He also reported on the site visit of August 27, 2013 and mentioned that the grant will most likely be awarded sometime in November. He discussed fundraising to help this project come to fruition.

Mail was read and distributed.

RFD
Davis Road – Lot 2
Martin

7:15 p.m. The public meeting requested by Gordon Martin for grading of a driveway and front yard and the installation of utility poles for a new single-family house on Lot 2 Davis Road was opened. Chris Mossman gave the overview of the project. Erosion control measures were discussed. After discussion, and upon motion by Gregg Buckman with a second by John Regan, it was unanimously voted to approve. The public meeting was closed at 7:20 p.m.

RFD
67 Bean Porridge Hill Road
Gauthier

7:20 p.m. Dan Bartkus abstained as an abutter. Gary Smith opened the public hearing requested by Mark and Tracey Gauthier for the installation of a replacement septic system for an existing single-family house and the construction of a wooden shed at 67 Bean Porridge Hill Road. Chris Mossman gave the overview of the project. After discussion, a motion was made by Greg Buckman and seconded by Tim Sheehan, and the Commission voted in favor of approval. The public hearing was closed at 7:25 p.m.

NOI
Noyes Pond Dam Repair – off Lanes Road
Snyder

7:25 p.m. The public hearing for the repair to the dam that impounds Noyes Pond located off Lanes Road was opened. Chris Mossman gave the overview of the project and provided proof of abutter notification. The water level will be dropped to expose the uphill face of the dam. Work will include the repair of the abutment, removal of beaver debris, and the stone retaining wall will be repaired. Chuck Caron reported that he was not concerned with wildlife impact during the lowering. Bob Maki visited the site and confirmed that only minor work would be required. Work will be completed in one to two weeks. Upon motion by Gary Smith, with a second by Greg Buckman, the plan was unanimously approved. The public hearing was closed at 7:30 p.m.

NOI
MBTA Bridge Repair south of State Road East
MBTA / Palmgren

7:35 p.m. The public hearing for repairs to an existing stone arch culvert (Bridge No. 54.53 – locate under the railroad right-of-way embankment) consisting of the repair/filling of voids within the damaged sections of the culvert interior with grout/concrete. Pan Am Railway is the owner of the property. Sean Hale of Epsilon Associates gave the overview of the project. He noted that the water is four to seven feet deep in that area and they may need to establish a temporary platform to work from. Turbidity curtains were proposed at both ends of the culvert. After review and discussion, a motion was made by John Regan with a second by Greg Buckman to approve the project with conditions. All voted in favor. The public hearing was closed at 7:40 p.m.

NOI
1 State Road West / MA Electric
Agostino

7:45 p.m. The public hearing filed by Andrea Agostino on behalf the Massachusetts Electric Company was opened. Melissa Green of BSC Group gave the overview for the installation of three new regulators on foundations and new underground conduit to connect the regulators to the existing control house at the substation at 1 State Road West. Proof of abutter notification was submitted. Work will occur within the Tophet Swamp and best management practices will be used. After review, a motion to approve was made by Gary Smith with a second by John Regan to approve the plan. All were in favor and the motion passed. The public hearing was closed at 7:50 p.m.

NOI
Old Town Farm Road
DPW

7:55 p.m. The public hearing for the culvert replacement and road improvements on Old Town Farm Road at the road/stream crossing of the unnamed perennial stream tributary to Round Meadow Pond was opened. Anthony Vitale, project engineer for CHA gave the overview of the project. Two 36 inch pipes will be removed and replaced with a box culvert to restore historic flow. Work will take place within the river front area and within the flood plain and will take place during the low flow season which is typically July through October of next year. After discussion, and upon motion by Gary Smith and second by Greg Buckman, it was unanimously voted to approve the project. The Commission commented on the quality of the presentation. The public hearing was closed at 8:05 p.m.

NOI
8 Winters Drive
Woodruff

8:05 p.m. The public hearing for the construction of a dock and retaining wall at 8 Winters Drive was opened. Mr. Woodruff provided proof of abutter notification and gave the overview of the project. Mr. Woodruff is proposing a dock that is 30 feet long. The Commission had concerns regarding the length of the dock jutting out into the water. Conservation Agent Bob Maki had advised Mr. Woodruff to apply for a chapter 91 simplified permit. Mr. Woodruff had not done this at this time. Erosion control measures were discussed. Under the General Performance Standard of the Wetland Regulations Protection the bank may provide a wildlife habitat and the Conservation Agent suggested that he schedule a habitat study prior to the next meeting. The hearing was continued to October 8, 2013 at 7:15 p.m. to give Mr. Woodruff an opportunity to obtain the chapter 91 simplified permit and the habitat study.

Minutes

The Minutes of August 28, 2013 were approved.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Bartkus
Chairman
(prepared by Susan Kalagher)