

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
October 27, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Sheryl Becker
Jill Messick
Mark Soticheck

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Magda Galiatsos
Fred Harpin

ALSO PRESENT:

Pamela R. Kerr

1. REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION – Main Street – Rivermoor-Citizens Agawam LLC

Brian Huntley of Tighe & Bond was in attendance as well as Ben Axelman of Citizens Energy and John Tourtelotte of Rivermoor. Mr. Huntley explained that this is a 9.5 acre site on Main Street which is currently a driving range and the proposal is to construct a solar facility on the site. Mr. Huntley stated that the solar facility will be located on the grassed area, a small portion of the wooded area and a portion of the paved area. He explained that they will have to do grading on the property; construct a looped access road and the panels will be placed on top of concrete blocks. He went on to say that some clearing is also proposed in a jurisdictional area. Members walked the site with these representatives prior to the meeting. Mr. Kozloski stated that he feels a Notice of Intent is needed for this project due to the wetland/resource area impacts (cutting in the buffer zone) and the need for a planting plan (similar to the one approved for the Shoemaker Lane site). Ms. Messick stated that she also favors a Notice of Intent as it will provide information on the extent of the proposed cutting; erosion control details; and information on the extent of grading on the site with the proposed contours. Mr. Huntley stated that they could have a Notice of Intent prepared and submitted next week to make it on the next agenda for a public hearing. He stated that he will address the planting and restoration plan in the narrative of the NOI. He asked if the Commission had any issues with the delineation. The members agreed with the delineation as submitted.

Motion was made by Ms. Becker and seconded by Ms. Messick to issue a Positive Determination of Applicability for Rivermoor-Citizens Agawam LLC at 369 Main Street.

VOTE 4-0

2. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – Notice of Intent – Garden Street – Russo

Rob Levesque of R. Levesque Associates was in attendance this evening along with Mr. Russo. Mr. Levesque stated that a revised plan has been submitted. Members met with him on-site last week and he stated that as a result of that, Mr. Russo has agreed to remove the two piles of debris. He went on to say that the amount of impervious surface has been reduced (per Planning Board); additional landscaping has been provided (shade trees, ornamental trees, foundation planting details); level spreaders are now shown; and a phasing plan for the erosion controls has been provided. Ms. Becker asked when the plantings would be done. Mr. Levesque stated that the utilities, roadway, drainage, base coat, construction of units, and then finish grade and seed. Plantings will be installed as units are sold. Ms. Messick stated that she is concerned that the slope in the back remain undisturbed as long as possible as it is very important that no erosion occur. She stated that Silver Lake and West Springfield Fish and Game Club pond are downstream. Mr. Levesque agreed and stated that NPDES reporting requirements call for reports every two weeks and after every rain event.

There being no public input, the Commission closed the public hearing. The Order of Conditions was then written. A copy can be obtained from the Town Clerk's office or the Commission office.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Mr. Soticheck to issue the Order of Conditions issued to Russo on Garden Street as written.

VOTE 4-0

3. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – Notice of Intent – Wright Street – Nardi

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Mr. Soticheck to continue the public hearing for the Notice of Intent on Wright Street to the Commission's November 10th meeting as requested by the applicant's representative.

VOTE 4-0

4. REQUEST TO EXTEND – Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) – Bowles Road – Diana's Bakery

An extension to this ANRAD was requested by the applicant's representative. This would also be covered under the Governor's Permit Extension Act.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Ms. Becker to extend the ANRAD for Diana's Bakery on Bowles Road for one year.

VOTE 4-0

5. RATIFY EMERGENCY ORDER – Castle Hills

Mr. Kozloski stated that he issued this Emergency Order for the removal of trees that had fallen in the wetland during the recent heavy storms.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Mr. Sotichack to ratify the Emergency Order issued to Castle Hills for the removal of trees from the wetland.

VOTE 4-0

RATIFY EMERGENCY ORDER – Main Street – Agawam DPW

Mr. Harpin had issued this Emergency Order for a washout that occurred with a Town drainage pipe behind Hood's on Main Street and on the bank of the Westfield River.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Ms. Becker to ratify the Emergency Order issued to the Agawam DPW for the correction of a washout and erosion behind the Hood's facility on Main Street.

VOTE 4-0

6. ENFORCEMENT ORDERS - updates

Robin Ridge – nothing new to report.

Optasite Tower – Mr. Kozloski stated that he spoke with Mr. Scheffler of DEP and was informed that it's up to the Conservation Commission as to whether or not to approve the information that was submitted on the flood elevation analysis. He stated that he will set up a meeting with the Engineering Department and VHB and that the work probably won't happen until next spring.

7. CORRESPONDENCES AND COMPLAINTS

A complaint was received by Mr. Langone regarding filling of a lot adjacent to land he owns on Southwick Street. He is concerned that filling the lot above him will have negative erosion effects on his land and questioned whether there were wetlands affected. Mr. Kozloski stated that he was planning to go out to this site tomorrow and asked if other members wanted to go. He informed the members there he is also going to look at some town-owned lots as well. Ms. Messick and Ms. Becker agreed to do these site visits with Mr. Kozloski the following afternoon.

Mr. Kozloski informed the members of a complaint that was received from a neighbor to Heritage Hall regarding a newly installed pipe in the vicinity of the pond adjacent to Route 57. Members will view the area to determine what the pipe is for and who installed it.

The Commission received an email from the contractor that did the work at the Insurance Center of NE on Suffield Street asking for permission to remove the silt socks that they

had installed for erosion control. Mr. Kozloski stated that he made a site visit and found that the area is re-established and the erosion controls can now be removed.

A correspondence was received from a contractor working on the WMECO GSRP project asking for permission to remove the gutter bags from various catch basin locations. Mr. Kozloski stated that he would take a look at these locations prior to the next meeting.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 22, 2011

Motion was made by Mr. Sotichack and seconded by Ms. Messick to approve the minutes of September 22, 2011 as written.

VOTE 4-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.