

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
December 8, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Sheryl Becker
Magda Galiatsos
Fred Harpin
Jill Messick
Mark Soticheck

ALSO PRESENT:

Deborah S. Dachos

Mr. Kozloski called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

1. REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION – Main Street – MassDOT

Robert Natario of MassDOT was in attendance this evening to present this RDA for work on Main Street. He explained that the Commission issued a Negative Determination in 2008 for the Main Street PWED project. This RDA is for work within previously degraded Riverfront Area (Station 176+50 +/- to Station +/- 178+35). They are now proposing additional sidewalks from South Street to Six Flags. Additional work on Bridge #A-05-009 (Worthington Brook crosses under Main Street) is also proposed which Mr. Natario stated was “Bridge Exempt” under the Wetlands Protection Act. There will be no resource area impacts associated with the work. Members conducted a site visit recently with a representative of MassDOT to view the area.

Motion was made by Mr. Harpin and seconded by Mr. Soticheck to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability for MassDOT on Main Street.

VOTE 6-0

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

Jon Goddard of R. Levesque Associates was in attendance as well as the applicant, Gary Nardi. Mr. Goddard explained that DEP had an issue with the wetland filing and has now been resolved. DEP has issued a Consent Order and a file number for the NOI. Restoration of a filled area to the north of Wright Street (per DEP) will be conducted and the work area is the southern portion of the parcel. Mr. Goddard stated that R. Levesque Associates will monitor the wetland replacement area. Ms. Messick stated that two visits during construction and a final report should be sufficient. Three Mile Brook runs north/south along the west property line. He stated that 90% of the site is resource area. The Board of Appeals issued a Decision to allow the construction of a single family house on the parcel. Mr. Goddard submitted an alternatives analysis to the Commission

this evening as well as a copy of their written response to the DEP comments associated with the issuance of a file number. Mr. Kozloski pointed out that the northern portion of the site has not been fully delineated. Mr. Goddard stated that they are looking for approval of the northern area only in the vicinity of the work area. Ms. Messick stated that the southerly boundary can be approved as it currently exists. Mr. Goddard stated that a replacement wetland will be created as per DEP's Order. He also stated that this is a redevelopment riverfront project with existing degraded land (gravel parking). He stated that this filing will result in improvements over the existing conditions with plantings of native vegetation; 450 sf of impervious area; two trees and six shrub plantings in close proximity to the bank of Three Mile Brook. He stated that this filing does not require stormwater standards to be met as it is a single family home. Erosion controls shall consist of silt fences and erosion control fabric. A retaining wall is shown at the rear of the house to allow for more usable lawn. The exact location of the proposed plantings has not been provided. Mr. Goddard went on to say that the Consent Order from DEP also requires the replacement of a culvert on the parcel.

There being no public input, the Commission closed the public hearing.

The members then wrote the Order of Conditions. A copy can be obtained from the Town Clerk's office or the Conservation Commission office.

Motion was made by Mr. Harpin and seconded by Mr. Soticheck to issue the Order of Conditions for Nardi on Wright Street as written, only approving the wetland boundary on the northern section (W1-W15).

VOTE 6-0

3. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE – lot 15 Hemlock Ridge

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Mr. Soticheck to issue a Certificate of Compliance on Lot 15 Hemlock Ridge pending the receipt of the required deed restriction.

VOTE 6-0

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE – Lot 6 Jessica Place

Mr. Kozloski made this inspection and recommended that a Certificate of Compliance be issued.

Motion was made by Mr. Soticheck and seconded by Ms. Becker to issue a Certificate of Compliance for Lot 6 Jessica Place.

VOTE 6-0

4. ENFORCEMENT ORDERS (updates)

Robin Ridge – Nothing new to report.

Optasite Towers – Nothing new to report.

5. CORRESPONDENCES – The Commission received a memo from Sahar Kafi, Planning Department intern from Westfield State regarding the GPS software that the Commission purchased previously for achieving a database of wetlands and boundaries in town. Mr. Kozloski explained that Ms. Kafi has experience and knowledge of GPS/GIS and he asked her to review the Commission’s software and pending maintenance agreement extension. The members were in agreement that it would be more appropriate for the Engineering Department to have this software and associated license and agreement after reading her report. Ongoing training/education would be needed to operate the GPS; it requires a time commitment; and since the wetland delineations are only valid for three years it wouldn’t be an accurate permanent database.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 10, 2011

Motion was made by Mr. Soticheck and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to approve the minutes of November 10, 2011 as written.

VOTE 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.