

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
February 25, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Sheryl Becker
Steven Douglas
Magda Galiatsos
Fred Harpin

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jill Messick

ALSO PRESENT:

Deborah S. Dachos
Pamela R. Kerr

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 14, 2010

Motion was made by Mr. Harpin and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to approve the minutes of January 14, 2010 as written.

VOTE 5-0-1 (Sotichack abstained)

Approval of Minutes – February 16, 2010

There was no quorum on this date therefore no minutes to approve.

2. REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION – Route 57 – Mass. DOT Highway

Tim Meyer of District 2 was in attendance to present this RDA which involves cold planning and resurfacing a section of Route 57 beginning at Route 187 and continues easterly to Route 75 (including connecting ramps). Total project length of 2.93 miles. The work may include the following: cold planning and resurfacing with hot mix asphalt; as necessary, adjusting, rebuilding and cleaning drainage structures, drainage pipes and paved waterways; replacing existing frames and grates; replacing signs; removing and resetting granite edging, curb and curb inlets; repairing hot mix asphalt berm; installing new guardrail, offset blocks and end treatments; removing and resetting existing guardrail; safety sight distance tree trimming, clearing and removal; repairing fences; grading, compacting and filling shoulders; installing signs and pavement markings; installing snow-plowable recessed reflectorized pavement markers; installing traffic controls; and as necessary, installing erosion./sedimentation control measures. He stated that the work proposed will all be contained to “up on the roadway” and no work is

proposed outside of that. He stated that they hope to have this project “shovel ready” and an exact timetable was not available.

Motion was made by Mr. Harpin and seconded by Mr. Soticheck to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability for Mass DOT Highway’s Route 57 work.

VOTE 6-0

7. REQUEST FOR EXTENSION – Order of Conditions – Windermere Estates – Bretta

Mr. Bretta has requested a one year extension of this Order of Conditions. Mr. Kozloski explained that the work subject to jurisdiction (i.e. detention basin) has been completed for quite some time. The members agreed to grant the extension as requested.

Motion was made by Mr. Harpin and seconded by Ms. Becker to approve a one year extension to the Windermere Estates Order of Conditions.

VOTE 6-0

Motion was made by Mr. Harpin and seconded by Mr. Soticheck to amend the agenda to include the “add-on’s”.

VOTE 6-0

3. PUBLIC HEARING – Notice of Intent – 5 Silver Lake Drive – Silkey

Heather Comee of Pioneer Environmental was in attendance to present this NOI which shows the construction of a trek walkway with deck and steps; and ramp and dock area into Silver Lake. She explained that resource areas include: land under water and bank. She stated that the deck and steps will be constructed on sauna tubes and there will be no alteration to bank area. Also, straw waddles will be placed between the tubes and the bank. There will be a landing pad at the bottom of the steps and then a ramp to the dock. She explained that they researched a floating dock but found there would be disturbance the bank and headwall. They are proposing a removable dock on piers. Mr. Kozloski stated that there may be an additional DEP permit for the dock. Ms. Comee stated that he is referring to a Chapter 91 dock permit, however, this would be exempt as Silver Lake is not classified as a “great pond”. Mr. Kozloski asked if this would be wheelchair accessible. Ms. Comee stated yes it will be as the applicant uses a wheelchair. Ms. Galiatsos asked if the disturbed areas would be reseeded. Ms. Comee stated yes, the disturbed areas will be immediately seeded after the work is done. Mr. Harpin asked if they had looked into a portable aluminum dock. After discussion, Ms. Comee agreed to continue the public hearing so that she could relay the information on the portable aluminum dock to the applicant.

Motion was made by Ms. Gagliatsos and seconded by Ms. Becker to continue the public hearing for Silkey on Silver Lake Drive to the next Commission.

VOTE 6-0

6. ENFORCEMENT ORDERS (UPDATES)

Anvil Street – nothing new to report. River Road – Nothing new but Mr. Kozloski stated that he has spoken with the Engineering Department and was informed that a different alternative for a connection is being pursued. Robin Ridge – nothing new. Walnut Street (Calabrese) – issued for dumping in riverfront area. Nothing new submitted yet. Main Street (Cirillo) – Notice of Intent filed (public hearing tonight). Liquori Drive – nothing new to report.

8. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE – Lots 4 & 5 Connor's Cove and Land Court lot 1

Mr. Kozloski made these inspections and recommended a \$2,000 holdback on lot 4 as the grass has not been established and a \$4500 holdback on Lot 5 to cover final grading and seeding. Lot 5 contains a small portion of Land Court property and is shown as lot 1 on a Land Court plan. There is a lot 1 in the subdivision, however, this Certificate does not pertain to that lot only the Land Court lot 1.

Motion was made by Mr. Soticheck and seconded by Mr. Harpin to issue a Certificate of Compliance on Lot 4 Connor's Cove with \$2,000 to be held back by the buyer's attorney to cover establishment of the lawn.

VOTE 6-0

Motin was made by Mr. Soticheck and seconded by Mr. Harpin to issue a Certificate of Compliance on Lot 5 Connor's Cove (including Land Court lot 1 which is actually a part of lot5) with \$4500 to be held back by the buyer's attorney to cover final grading and seeding.

VOTE 6-0

9. COMPLAINT – 73 Elizabeth Street

A complaint was received from the owners of 73 Elizabeth Street regarding ponding of water on the rear of their property. Mr. Kozloski spoke with the Engineering Department about this lot as they have been out there to inspect. He was told that the grading plan for the property only showed the front portion of the lot. This lot is very large and the water is ponding at the rear. In conclusion, it was agreed to make an inspection in the Spring.

10. DISCUSSION – Robinson Pond

The Commission received a letter from the consultant that prepared the Notice of Intent for the dredging of Robinson Pond. The Order of Conditions specifies that the work be done during low flow periods (June – September). They requested that this be changed to allow for the work to be done in the winter months. Mr. Kozloski explained that he spoke with this gentlemen and informed him that they usually drain the pond in September and that he feels the work should be done at that time rather than during the winter months. He agreed that the work will start in September (he was not aware that they drain the pond so early in the year).

At this time Mr. Calabrese was in attendance. Mr. Kozloski explained to him that a Notice of Intent is now required for the restoration of the riverfront area. Mr. Calabrese stated that he wasn't aware he was within the riverfront area and will have a Notice of Intent prepared for the restoration.

4. PUBLIC HEARING – Notice of Intent – 1504 Main Street – Twisty's – Cirillo

Mr. Cirillo was in attendance along with Joe Petronino of Environmental Services who prepared the Notice of Intent. Mr. Petronino explained that this NOI covers a proposed 360 SF addition and also the enclosure of an existing patio area. He stated that the mean annual high water line as shown was previously delineated by R. Levesque. He stated that there is no erosion hazard with this proposed work. Mr. Kozloski asked if any other additions were proposed that were not shown. Mr. Cirillo stated no. Mr. Kozloski stated that the Enforcement Order was issued for the work to enclose an existing cooler and this is not shown on the plan. Mr. Cirillo stated that he will have the existing platform and cooling unit shown on the plan. DEP has not yet provided comments or a file number. He requested a continuance of the public hearing to the next meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Soticheck and seconded by Mr. Harpin to continue the public hearing for Twisty's, 1504 Main Street to the next Commission meeting.

VOTE 6-0

5. PUBLIC HEARING – Amendment to Five Year Action Plan – 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan –

Ms. Dachos began this presentation. She explained that the state has now allowed for communities to update their Open Space Plans by adding two additional years to the Action Plan if received by February 28, 2011. Since the last Commission meeting she has met with members of Commission and the Parks and Recreation Director to discuss possible projects for years 2012 and 2013. She stated that during these meetings it was agreed that the Plan should contain more realistic goals as well as identify responsible parties and possible funding sources. She also stated that many of these projects are already contained in the 2006 Plan. She outlined the following draft of years 2012 and

2013: Year 2012 - #1 Conduct Comprehensive Community Center Study. A final location for the Community Center should be identified as well as securing funding for design and construction. The responsible party for this item is the Mayor and Town Council and funding would be through municipal appropriation, grants and fundraising. Component #2 of 2012 is Produce a Recreation/Open Space Pamphlet. She explained this informational pamphlet would include locations of all town-owned open space and recreation resources and how to enter them, the activities and facilities they offer, hours of operation and other useful information. The responsible party would be Park and Recreation Department, Planning Department, and CPA Committee with funding through CPA funds or municipal appropriation. Component #3 of 2012 is Phase II of the Connecticut River Walk and Bikeway Project. Ms. Dachos explained that Fuss and O'Neil is in the process of designing this project and the Town, the consultant and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission will complete the design and secure funding for construction. Responsible party is the Office of Planning and Community Development and the funding would be through state and federal transportation funds. Component #4 of 2012 is Enhancement and Protection of Robinson State Park. She stated that the members who helped draft this felt that the Town should be more supportive and more involved with the Friends of Robinson Park who now sponsor regular activities in the Park to promote its use and protection. Responsible party is the Conservation Commission and Parks and Recreation Department. No funding needed at this present time. Component #5 of 2012 is Assess Publicly-Owned Recreational Facilities in Agawam. Ms. Dachos explained that this would ensure that each town-owned recreational facility be annually assessed to determine where improvements or upgrades are necessary. The responsible party would be the Parks and Recreation Department and ADA Commission and the funding would be through the Parks and Recreation Department annual budget. Year 2013, component #1 is Acquire the Agawam Sportsman's Club. The responsible party would be the Mayor and Town Council and funding would be Town appropriation, CPA funds and grants. #2 of Year 2013 is Conduct Comprehensive Community Center Study. Ms. Dachos explained this is a continuation of 2012 and is expected to be a multi-year activity. #3 of Year 2013 is Enhancement and Protection of Robinson State Park. She explained this is a continuation of year 2012 discussion. #4 of 2013 is Assess Publicly-Owned Recreational Facilities in Agawam. This is a continuation of 2012. #5 of 2013 is to Create Outdoor Classrooms. She explained that a parcel of land adjacent to the High School was purchased for outdoor educational use and that efforts are underway to design the improvements. Opportunities also exist at the School Street Park and Perry Lane and that the Town should continue to identify areas which can be used for education and seek funding for their acquisition and development. Responsible parties are the School Department, Conservation Commission and CPA Committee. #6 of 2013 is the Creation of Small Neighborhood Playgrounds. The responsible parties are Parks and Recreation Department, Office of Planning and Community Development and CPA Committee. Funding would be through CPA funds.

Mr. Harpin stated that he has always been an advocate for some type of a playground or park behind Brady Village.

Mr. Kozloski asked for any public input.

Scott Smith, 129 Cambridge Street spoke of the existing skateboard park on Maynard Street. He stated that it is outdated, unsafe, not monitored and located in a secluded area. Ms. Dachos explained that a skateboard park was included in an earlier year. Mr. Smith asked if there was funding available for it. Dick Bennett of the Community Preservation Act Committee was in attendance and explained that CPA funds can be used for a new project and but cannot be used to upgrade an existing facility. Mr. Kozloski stated that there needs to be a study done to determine the need and location of a skateboard park. He stated that a committee should be formed to study this and provide the findings to the CPA and Town Council. Mr. Bennett stated that he agrees that the existing skateboard park is in an isolated location and that some improvements have been done (building painted). He stated that it seems this recent work is being maintained. He recommends public involvement in the process as well.

Scott Smith, Jr. then spoke. He stated that the existing park is not adequate and needs upgrading.

Corinne Wingard of Elm Street stated more citizens should be involved in working on the items in the Five Year Action Plan. She stated that an ad hoc citizen committee could be formed to work with the responsible parties on the items and suggested that be added to each project.

Mr. Harpin also spoke of the need for a new skateboard park and suggested using the rear field of the Middle School. Scott Smith, Jr. agreed to get support from local youths regarding the need for a new skateboard park. Mr. Harpin suggested he also inquire into the need for a volleyball court in town. It was agreed to add to year 2012 the creation of a committee to study the needs and location of a new skateboard park and any other recreational needs.

Motion was made by Mr. Sotichack and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the amendments to the Five Year Action Plan including years 2012 and 2013 and to include the changes discussed tonight (creation of citizen ad hoc committee to work with responsible parties on each item and add to 2012 the creation of a committee to study the needs and location of a new skateboard park and any other recreational needs.

VOTE 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.