

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
March 11, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Pamela R. Kerr

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 16 & 25, 2010

The minutes of the last meeting state that there was not a quorum on February 16th, therefore no minutes. That is incorrect. There was a quorum and the minutes were prepared and sent out.

Motion was made by Mr. Soticheck and seconded by Ms. Becker to approve the minutes of February 16, 2010 as written.

VOTE 7-0

Motion was made by Ms. Galiatsos and seconded by Mr. Soticheck to approve the minutes of February 25, 2010 as written.

VOTE 6-0-1 (Messick abstained)

Motion was made by Mr. Harpin and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to amend the agenda to include the add-on's.

VOTE 7-0

2. REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION – Suffield Street – Insurance Ct. of New England

Jeff Squire of the Berkshire Design Group was in attendance to present this RDA which includes the renovation of the existing building (The Oaks), reorganizing the current parking lot, removing much of the existing asphalt and milling and overlaying the remaining parking area. Lawn and other plantings will replace the removed asphalt. He stated that a construction sequence plan was submitted and that there are no wetland impacts with this project, only buffer zone. He stated that they would like to start the

work in the spring. Ms. Galiatsos stated that members will make inspections during construction.

Motion was made by Mr. Harpin and seconded by Mr. Soticheck to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability for the Insurance Center of New England on Suffield Street with the condition that the construction sequence plan as submitted is adhered to.

VOTE 7-0

12. DISCUSSION – Pynchon Point parking area

Mr. Kozloski updated the members on a recent site visit held with Michelle Chase, Town Engineer and Joe Borowiec of Mass DOT/Highway. He explained that the contractor working on the bridge is using this parking lot as a staging area. He stated that any damage will be repaired to the satisfaction of the Town and that the Town has a copy of the insurance binder for contractor.

13. DISCUSSION – Offer of Land – School Street – Grimaldi

Betty Grimaldi has notified the Town that she would like to donate a 12 acre parcel of land located on School Street. The members discussed the parcel and the fact that it contains a large wetland and floodplain. Mr. Harpin stated that he would not support the Town accepting this land and feels it should stay on the tax roll.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to send a positive recommendation with regard to the Town accepting the offer of 12 acres of land on School Street by Betty Grimaldi as the area contains a large wetland and is vital to the area ecosystem.

VOTE 5-2 (Soticheck and Harpin opposed)

11. DISCUSSION – River Road- tree removal

Ms. Messick stated that she, Ms. Becker and Ms. Galiatsos met on-site with the property owner, Donna Jago. She stated that Ms. Jago has asked for permission to remove some trees on the riverbank that have died. The stumps would remain. She would like to plant river willows. Mr. Kozloski asked if these trees were endangering the house. Ms. Messick stated no but are dead.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to allow Ms. Jago to remove the trees on the riverbank that the members viewed on-site, the stumps are to remain.

VOTE 7-0

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

The applicant's representative has requested this hearing be continued to the next meeting as they are reviewing a different dock design and making the changes to the plans.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to continue the public hearing for Silkey on Silver Lake Drive as requested by the applicant's representative.

VOTE 7-0

6. ENFORCEMENT ORDER (updates)

River Road – Mr. Kozloski stated they are working on a lower cost alternative for this drainage situation. He noted that the parking lot is almost dry at this time.

Robin Ridge – Commission to revisit this in the Spring.

Walnut Street Calabrese – Mr. Calabrese has not yet submitted the Notice of Intent as required in the Enforcement Order.

Anvil Street – nothing new to report.

Liquori Drive – The Commission will monitor this area.

Main Street – Cirillo – Mr. Cirillo has submitted a Notice of Intent as was required in the Enforcement Order.

Motion was made by Ms. Messick and seconded by Mr. Harpin to lift the Enforcement Order issued to Cirillo, 1504 Main Street.

VOTE 7-0

4. PUBLIC HEARING – Notice of Intent – Six Flags New England – new warehouse

John Furman of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) was in attendance as well as Chuck Davis of Six Flags New England. Mr. Furman explained that this project includes the construction of a new warehouse and office facility, loading and access areas, a parking area with sidewalks, stormwater management and utility infrastructure and grading. The proposed building is 38,000 SF including a 1700 SF cooler area. The area is currently gravel and drainage will be directed to the detention pond that exists under the Superman ride. Mr. Kozloski asked if that detention pond was adequate. Mr. Furman stated yes and went on to explain the details of the drainage design – overflow pipe from catch basin to a settling basin and then through the system. He went on to say that utility connections will be made to Riverview Avenue and the area will be milled and overlaid. Mr. Kozloski asked if any mitigation was proposed. Mr. Furman stated that they will be cutting down “scrub”, loaming and seeding and possibly providing additional plantings. He also stated that they have an alternate grading plan prepared as the Building Inspector has instructed them to go back to the Board of Appeals to show the alteration of this area. He explained that they are proposing to place 5’ to 6’ of fill up to the existing soundwall, however, the alternate plan shows the installation of a retaining wall on the Six Flags side of the sound wall. He also stated that at the Team Meeting the Fire Department stated that they must provide access to the soundwall for emergency vehicles. Ms. Messick asked how many square feet of the building will be in the

riverfront zone. Mr. Furman stated approximately 600 SF. Mr. Kozloski asked what the height of the building would be. Mr. Furman stated the building will be 40' and 20' from the soundwall. They have not received DEP comments or a response from NHESP and they need to go before the ZBA. This hearing will be continued.

Barry Miller, 17 Riverview Avenue asked what the impacts of digging up Riverview Avenue for the utilities will be. Mr. Furman stated that there will be no impacts from this work and that it can be completed in one day.

Dick Langone, 61 Mark Drive asked if the elevation of the land was changing. He owns duplexes that abut this property and already experiences drainage problems. Mr. Davis stated that the elevation will be going up at the north end of the project site and no change to the southern end. Mr. Furman stated that they could extend the swale in this area to capture more water.

Roberta Miller, 17 Riverview Avenue stated that there is standing water by the pump station year round but felt that the proposed grading and clearing of the scrub brush may help that situation. Mr. Furman stated that the puddle exists now and will not change with this work that is proposed. He stated that there is no collection system in Riverview Avenue. Mr. Sotichack asked if an oil/water separator was being proposed. Mr. Furman stated no and that very little pavement is being added. He went on to say that the separators are not typically used for a normal parking lot and that the catch basins will have deep sumps and hoods.

Motion was made by Mr. Harpin and seconded by Ms. Messick to continue the public hearing for Six Flags warehouse for two weeks.

VOTE 7-0

5. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – Notice of Intent – Twisty's – 1504 Main Street

Joe Petronino of Environmental Services was in attendance as well as Mr. Cirillo. A revised plan has been submitted which shows the 8'x12' refrigeration unit. Mr. Kozloski stated that must be labeled "platform". He also stated that the Commission can add to the Order of Conditions that this unit can be enclosed if Mr. Cirillo decides to do so. DEP has not yet issued a file number or comments therefore the Commission continued the public hearing again for two weeks. Mr. Cirillo stated that the dumpster is being fenced. Mr. Kozloski informed the members that there was a water pipe repair done today on this site and that he made an inspection.

Motion was made by Mr. Sotichack and seconded by Ms. Messick to continue the public hearing for Twisty's for two weeks.

VOTE 7-0

7. COMPLAINT – Agawam Shopping Court

Mr. Kozloski explained that a complaint was called in regarding trees being cut in a wetland behind BGL on Agawam Shopping Court. He made an inspection and found that a homeowner on Columbus Street hired a company to trim trees behind his house to help him gain a better view. Mr. Kozloski stated that nothing was cut in the wetland but that branches had fallen into the buffer zone and that he met with the property owner and the company doing the trimming. A follow-up letter was sent stating that the branches must be removed from the buffer zone.

10. EMERGENCY ORDER – Six Flags New England

Mr. Kozloski stated that a washout occurred at the northern end of the Park behind the blizzard river ride. A large tree came down and there was extensive damage that must be repaired immediately as it is compromising the integrity of a building on the embankment that is associated with the ride. John Furman of VHB explained to the Commission that they are looking for permission to start the remediation work to halt further damage and they are preparing a remediation plan to submit. Mr. Kozloski stated he spoke with DEP and was told that a plan must be submitted for the Emergency Order. Mr. Furman went on to explain that no work is proposed in the floodplain and that they will be filling with horizontal pipes to collect the groundwater and then will install gabion baskets. The groundwater will be piped out to contour 50 and a 12' access road is to be maintained in this area for maintenance.

Motion was made by Mr. Soticheck and seconded by Mr. Harpin to issue an Emergency Order for Six Flags New England to correct the washout at the northern end of the park per the plan to be submitted.

VOTE 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.