

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
January 26, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Keven Brown
Jill Ward
Page Fallon
Sheryl Becker
Henry Kozloski
Frank Meagher
Magda Galiatsos

ALSO PRESENT:

Taryn Egerton
Stefanie Kesecker

Mr. Kozloski called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

1. 6:00PM PUBLIC HEARING-NOTICE OF INTENT-56 Debra Lane-MOST Builders & General Contracting.

Rob Levesque with R. Levesque Associates Inc. was present for this agenda item. Mr. Levesque explained this property falls partially in the 100 year flood plain, and subject to flooding. He stated there is some subtle grading needed to provide compensatory storage for the garage. He said they will be scooping an area out to compensate for the portion that is affected by the proposed garage. Mr. Levesque said they are requesting an Order of Conditions to allow for this work. Mr. Kozloski asked about erosion controls. Mr. Levesque stated they are proposing a silt sock near the catch basin. Mr. Kozloski asked when the current driveway would be removed. Mr. Levesque stated once the new garage is constructed, then the blacktop would be removed. Ms. Galiatsos asked about the area taken away and the grading and if it was to catch the water. Mr. Levesque stated to compensate for the garage and associated grading, the regrading of surrounding areas was needed. Ms. Galiatsos asked about the run-off water to other properties and Mr. Levesque informed her this grading would prevent that. Ms. Ward asked about when the driveway is taken out and loam and seeding is done. Mr. Levesque stated it is about a 3% slope and it is pretty flat, and they will mimic current conditions to make existing grade. Ms. Ward then asked about the compensatory flood storage, and that one is larger and one is smaller, and how does the water flow. Mr. Kozloski said they are just taking a high spot and lowering it. Mr. Kozloski opened the meeting to the public. Denise Wheeler, an abutter from 42 Sherwood Drive was present. She asked how this project will affect her lot as an abutter. Mr. Levesque said all the existing drainage patterns on site, in roadway, and surrounding area all follow the 100 year flood plain and will remain the same, so there should be no change to the drainage patterns

for this abutters' property. Mr. Kozloski asked about the flood elevation. Mr. Levesque explained it was 58. Mr. Kozloski asked what the street was. Mr. Levesque said 56.4. Mr. Kozloski said in a 100 year flood this area would be under water, but this project would not impact that.

Motion was made by Mr. Meagher and seconded by Ms. Becker to close the PUBLIC HEARING-NOTICE OF INTENT-56 Debra Lane-MOST Builders & General Contracting.

Order of Conditions will be written at the end of the meeting.

VOTE 7-0-0

2. 6:10PM PUBLIC HEARING-NOTICE OF INTENT-North Street Right of Way, 534 & 536 North Street, North Street Pumping Station-Town of Agawam DPW

Ross Tsantoulis with Woodard and Curran was present for this agenda item. He gave a brief overview of the project. He said the project is located along North Street at the existing culvert, which serves White Brook under North Street. The purpose of the project is: to replace a deteriorating culvert, provide additional flow capacity, stabilize the existing road embankments, improve aquatic and wildlife passage through the culvert to comply with state standards. Mr. Tsantoulis said in 2012 was the first failure and the downstream collapsed and in 2018 upstream. In 2020 the Town had Woodard and Curran inspect this culvert as part of a stormwater asset management plan. He said they have been working for the last 2 years on the design and permitting of the culvert. They performed more geotech exploration at the end of December on the subject property and neighboring properties. The existing culvert is a 36" corrugated metal pipe that has segments that are 42". He said the culvert is failing and is severely undersized. The proposal is an 18ft span that is 5'9' tall to comply with stream crossing standards. The culvert is 120 ft. in length. There is drainage improvements, catch basins and second proposed auxiliary outlets for storm occurrences. Mr. Kozloski asked what the elevation was for the 100 year storm. Mr. Tsantoulis said under the existing conditions the peak elevation during a water event is 119 and the driveway is 124, so a difference of 5 feet and hasn't changed with the added auxiliary culvert they are decreasing the peak water surface elevation at the driveway. Mr. Kozloski said the outfall from the roadway to the driveway will need to be have debris cleaned up and asked who would be responsible for that. Mr. Tsantoulis said they have spoken to Engineering about this maintenance burden. They do not have a solution yet, but will continue talks. Mr. Kozloski asked about the stream nearby and if that had been calculated. Mr. Tsantoulis said yes that was part of the hydrologic study. He said the next step in the process was to have Mass DOT review. Mr. Meagher asked about the current conditions on the west driveway side and stated the bank is eroding. He asked if this meant that the water will enter the stream further away from the bank. Mr. Tsantoulis said yes the extended culvert stabilized the embankments down to the stream. Mr. Kozloski said there is also piping and catch basins. Mr. Tsantoulis said he had received comments from DEP and they are preparing their response to those. They received a No Take from Natural Heritage. Mr. Brown asked how many gallons of water a day go through the culvert. Mr. Tsantoulis said he didn't have the numbers with him, but when they put out a job for dewatering, the contractor is responsible for dewatering in any storm

events. Mr. Kozloski brought up the issue of temperature for the fishery. Mr. Tsantoulis said the dewatering plan would go to Engineering for approval. Mr. Kozloski opened the meeting to the public. No comments.

Motion was made by Mr. Meagher and seconded by Ms. Becker to close the PUBLIC HEARING-NOTICE OF INTENT-North Street Right of Way, 534 & 536 North Street, North Street Pumping Station-Town of Agawam-DPW, and to write the Order of Conditions on February 9, 2023.

VOTE 7-0-0

3. 6:20PM PUBLIC HEARING-NOTICE OF INTENT-Suffield Street-TCR Properties LLC.

Rob Levesque with R. Levesque Associates Inc. was present for this agenda item. He stated the location was zoned Industrial and the petitioner uses it primarily as a logging business. He said there is a perennial stream that runs under Suffield Street that carries with it the 200 ft. riverfront and buffer zone. There is buffer zone near another stream that is intermittent. 5250 sq. ft. building, utilized for the business, 2 parking spaces and ADA compliance and access to the building. He stated there is an area in front that is a bio-retention basin and is the lowest point of the site. He said the site flows toward the riverfront and the construction entrance will prevent sediment to the street and erosion controls for sediment onsite, and there will be silt socks for erosion control. Sewer and water utilities will be from the front and a refuge area in the back corner. He stated they have received Mass DEP comments and Engineering comments and are requesting to continue until the February 9, 2023 meeting to have time to formally respond to these comments. Mr. Kozloski asked where the area that had been restored from the violation. Mr. Levesque said in the back yard. Mr. Levesque said a lot of the area for this project is new and some land was purchased from a neighbor and the operations are moving away and out of the riverfront. Mr. Kozloski asked if he was planning to sell the property. Mr. Levesque said not that he was aware of and a long-time employee lives there. Mr. Kozloski said his concern is that the restored area remains restored. Mr. Kozloski asked where the basin outlet was, and Mr. Levesque stated it overflows to an existing structure, and cannot be new water just what exists.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Fallong to continue the PUBLIC HEARING-NOTICE OF INTENT-Suffield Street-TCR Properties LLC until the February 9, 2023 meeting.

VOTE 7-0-0

4. PUBLIC HEARING CONT.-NOTICE OF INTENT-721 Springfield Street-Beaver Realty, LLC

Jeff Smith with Salvini & Associates presented this agenda item. He said this was in response to an Enforcement Order for some cutting of trees along what was a Bordering Vegetated Wetland, there is a short section that is possible intermittent with a 100 ft. buffer. He stated the clearing

that was performed was in the buffer zone, not in an actual resource area. He said his client has agreed to no more cutting of trees and to landscape the area with shrubs and trees, and most of the grading has been done. They are proposing trees that will be 3" in diameter. Mr. Kozloski asked about the branch debris at the back of the property. Mr. Smith stated a neighbor had dumped those, but the pile will be cleaned up. Mr. Smith said the stream is 580' north of the property. Mr. Kozloski asked how many trees had been cut down and how many would be planted. Mr. Smith said about 6 to 8 mature trees had been taken down and they will plant about 10 to 12 red maple trees. Mr. Kozloski asked how much grass would be planted. Mr. Smith stated to the 25' buffer. Mr. Kozloski asked if they could put up 3 markers at the 50' buffer zone and Mr. Smith agreed. Mr. Meagher asked if 3" diameter trees are the biggest that can be planted. Mr. Smith stated yes to get the trees to the location the 3" diameter make it possible to move the trees. Mr. Smith also stated if any of the planted trees did not reach 75% growth they would be replaced. Mr. Fallon asked how tall the sapling where and Mr. Smith said 12ft. Mr. Meagher suggested planting a couple more trees.

Mr. Kozloski opened the meeting to the public.

Ms. Egerton read a letter submitted to the Commission from a Maryellen Sullivan, 38 Sequoia Drive, in which the resident expressed her concerns for the deforestation and loss of wildlife. She said she would like to see at least 20 mature trees planted, all the fill removed and the ground cover replaced. She went on to say the changed habitat has affected both the wildlife and residents in this area.

Elsa Rosenak, 24 Sequoia Drive and John Rioni from 46 Sequoia both expressed their concerns with all the trees that were cut down and the resource areas filled with dumping and debris. Mr. Rioni said that the cutting of the trees continued after the Cease and Desist was given. He further stated a different abutting property owner was dumping trash, debris, and branches. Mr. Rioni also showed the Commission members pictures of further damage, that were time dated.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Becker to continue the PUBLIC HEARING CONT.-NOTICE OF INTENT-721 Springfield Street-Beaver Realty, LLC until the February 9, 2023 meeting and scheduled an on site visit for Monday, January 30, 2023.

VOTE 6-0-1(Kozloski)

5. PUBLIC HEARING CONT.-NOTICE OF INTENT-57 H.P. Almgren Drive-OMG, Inc.

Bryan Balicki with Sage Engineering & Contracting Inc. was present for this agenda item. He explained they are proposing to construct a 78,000 sq. ft. addition used for manufacturing and warehousing. The subject parcel is approximately 13-1/2 acres and zoned Industrial-A. Construction will be slab on grade and will match the existing building. Site improvements include a paved area for additional parking on the east side of the building, a paved area for loading and unloading on the west side of the building, and an expansion of the detention basin and storm water management system. The Bordering Vegetated Wetlands are to the south of the property. He stated the water and storm management system will be constructed according to Mass DEP regulations and all stormwater will be managed onsite through catch basins and a

detention basin at the south end of the property. He stated since the last meeting Engineering has approved and most of the issues were technical stormwater management.
Mr. Kozloski opened the meeting to the public for comments and there were none.

Motion was made by Mr. Meagher and seconded by Mr. Brown to close the PUBLIC HEARING CONT.-NOTICE OF INTENT-57 H.P. Almgren Drive-OMG, Inc.

VOTE 7-0-0

6. Request for Certificate of Compliance-840 Suffield Street

Two more plantings were put in this area and work has been completed.

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Ward to issue a Certificate of Compliance-840 Suffield Street.

VOTE 7-0-0

7. Request for Certificate of Compliance-Nicole Terrace Subdivision-Lot 7

Mr. Kozloski informed the Commission he was not able to get into this location due to a locked gate on the property. He said he is not sure if the swale is done properly, and that the resident at Lot 6 had informed him she had water in her basement.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to continue the Request for Certificate of Compliance-Nicole Terrace Subdivision-Lot 7, until the February 9, 2023 meeting once an onsite can be performed.

VOTE 7-0-0

8. Correspondence & Complaints

Ms. Egerton informed the Commission that a complaint was received about the end of Chapin Street at the Three Mile Brook, that it was filled with debris.

9. Enforcement Order Updates

None

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-January 12, 2023

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to approve the January 12, 2023 minutes.

VOTE 6-0-1(Galiatsos)

11. PUBLIC HEARING CONT.-NOTICE OF INTENT-1014 North St. Ext.-VIP Homes
& Associates LLC (Continued to March 9, 2023)

This agenda item was previously continued.

12. PUBLIC HEARING CONT.-NOTICE OF INTENT-Main Street-Westfield River
Interceptor Sewer Relocation Project-Agawam (Continued to March 23, 2023)

This agenda item was previously continued.

Order of Conditions for 56 Debra Lane was written and discussed.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Becker to issue the Order of Conditions.

VOTE 7-0-0

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Fallon to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE 7-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.