

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
February 9, 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 6:03pm.

1. REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY-240 Bowles Road-
SolBid, Inc

Heather Comee Wetland Consultant was present for this agenda item. She stated the location is a manufacturing company for paper materials and they are looking to construct a solar array for this site only, which will alleviate their electrical demand. She stated the project is more than 100 ft. away from the Bordering Vegetated Wetland that is solely for drainage that is fed from water on Bowles Road with catch basins that discharge. Ms. Comee said when she delineated the area there was no water, but when she went back to the site a few months later there was water that flowed in a westerly direction, so the area is a contained system from stormwater. She stated there was no wetland area in the proposed solar array area and no wetland area further east of the road. She stated the soil within this area is very well drained and mainly sees water when the ground is frozen. She stated all the work is outside the buffer zone. She stated they would be leaving the current vegetation to provide a screen for abutters. She stated there was an open Order of Conditions from when the building was constructed in 1999 and it was for a detention basin. An outlet of it and the driveway turnaround are in buffer zone. Mr. Kozloski asked how far the detention basin was from the solar array. Ms. Comee stated at least 400 ft. away. Ms. Comee stated they have filed a request for a Certificate of Compliance for the next meeting. She went on to say there was a proposed silt sock outside the 100 ft. buffer zone. She stated there is not a lot of sediment moving, the area is very flat, and not a lot of flow. She stated the soil boring showed 100% upland soil. She said some of the area is forested and a big portion is a grassy area. She said the westerly and easterly portions are forested and will be cleared up to the silt sock line.

Motion made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability -240 Bowles Road-SolBid, Inc.

VOTE 7-0-0

2. PUBLIC HEARING CONT.-NOTICE OF INTENT-Suffield Street-TCR Properties LLC.

The Commission received a request to continue this agenda item to the February 23, 2023 meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Meagher and seconded by Ms. Becker to continue the PUBLIC HEARING-NOTICE OF INTENT- Suffield Street-TCR Properties LLC to the February 23, 2023 meeting.

VOTE 7-0-0

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

Jeff Smith with Salvini Associates was present for this agenda item. He stated the Commission had done a recent site visit and not further work had been done on the site. He stated the plan will address the restoration needed. Mr. Kozloski asked if any changes were made to the plan. Mr. Smith stated no and that a few extra trees would be planted, to be included in the Order of Conditions. Mr. Kozloski had Mr. Smith show the Commission where the plantings would be located. Mr. Kozloski asked what type of trees to which Mr. Smith stated there would be Red Maple and 3 inches in diameter, with 6 on one side and 6 on the other. Mr. Smith stated they agreed they would put 3 markers on the edge of the vegetated buffer so as to prevent further encroachment. Mr. Kozloski asked if the area would be loamed and seeded. Mr. Smith stated yes and 40 ft. back from the buffer zone. Mr. Smith stated the trees would be monitored for a period of 2 years or until 75% growth occurred and no more cutting or clearing would take place. Mr. Meagher asked about the pile of debris and branches and if it was going to be cleaned up to which Mr. Smith stated yes. Ms. Galiatsos asked if evergreens could be planted and Mr. Meagher asked if evergreens grow well in shaded areas. Mr. Smith stated they could plant white pines, spruce, or furr trees, but that the area was mostly populated with hard wood trees now. Mr. Kozloski said oak trees grow and provide a canopy whereas pine trees do not. Ms. Becker said concerning the abutters what would provide the most shade and privacy. Mr. Smith said they would stick with hard wood trees as that is what was growing there and they grow well.

Mr. Kozloski then opened the meeting to the public.

Maryellen Sullivan, 38 Sequoia Drive, said according to Mass General Laws the area needs to be restored to the original condition, and she would like to see all the trees replaced and to be 6" to 10" in diameter. She thanked the Commission for their consideration.

Jack Rioni, 46 Sequoia Drive, said his back yard abuts this property and the trees that were cut down were behind his home. He said the proposed plantings are along the other commercial property and not behind his yard. He stated an abutting property owner has dumped large pieces of steel and junk into the stream and it is about 6 ft. high. Mr. Kozloski said some was taken out as part of an Enforcement Order, but that the Commission could go back onsite to check on the dumping. He stated the Building Inspector had been onsite and Ms. Egerton stated he was again advised about the site, since the Commissions' last visit. Mr. Kozloski stated the Commission would go onsite again.

Mike Picco, 38 Sequoia Drive, stated fill had been brought in near the water and some of the trees are buried under the dirt. Mr. Kozloski stated there was a pile of dirt, but it had been removed and he saw no evidence of fill being put in the buffer zone. He stated there was a big pile of dirt and it was moved so that it did not go into the wetlands. Mr. Picco stated that fill was put in this area. Mr. Kozloski stated it would be graded, loamed, and seeded. Mr. Kozloski asked what type of shrubs. Mr. Smith stated 10 trees would be planted and 10 to 12 shrubs would be planted that would be dogwood, spice bush berry, and the trees would be red maple. Ms. Ward asked how big the shrubs would be. Mr. Smith stated 6 to 8 ft. Ms. Ward stated the extra 2 to 3 red maple trees would be good in the Twin 48 Area on the plan.

Christine Quink 42 Pheasant Hill Drive, who grew up on Sequoia Drive told the Commission she thinks the exact number of trees taken down should be replanted. Mr. Smith said 12 trees were taken down and the new plan has 3 more trees.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Brown to add an additional 3 red maple trees on the "Twin 48 Oak" area on the map for 721 Springfield Street, Beaver Realty, LLC.

VOTE 7-0-0

Motion was made by Mr. Meagher and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to level, loam, and seed this disturbed area with correct native species that are a bee friendly seed mixture to return it to its original state for 721 Springfield Street, Beaver Realty, LLC.

VOTE 7-0-0

Mr. Kozloski informed the public that this area would be monitored for 2 years or 2 growing seasons to make sure the work had been completed and if everything is done an Order of Compliance can be issued.

Motion was made by Mr. Fallon and seconded by Ms. Ward to approve the restoration plan for 721 Springfield Street-Beaver Realty, LLC, with the addition of 3 trees in the “Twin 48 Oak” area on the map.

VOTE 7-0-0

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Ward to close the PUBLIC HEARING-NOTICE OF INTENT-721 Springfield Street-Beaver Realty, LLC.

VOTE 7-0-0

4. Write Order of Conditions-North Street Right of Way, 534 & 536 North Street, North Street Pumping Station-Town of Agawam-DPW.

The Commission wrote the Order of Conditions-North Street Right of Way, 534 & 536 North Street, North Street Pumping Station-Town of Agawam-DPW. A copy of which can be obtained from the Conservation Commission Office or the Town Clerk’s Office.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Brown to issue the Order of Conditions for North Street Right of Way, 534 & 536 North Street, North Street Pumping Station-Town of Agawam-DPW. A copy of which can be obtained from the Conservation Commission Office or the Town Clerk’s Office.

VOTE 7-0-0

5. Write Order of Conidtions-57 H.P. Almgren Drive-OMG, Inc

The Commission wrote the Order of Conidtions-57 H.P. Almgren Drive-OMG, Inc

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to issue the Order of Conditions 57 H.P. Almgren Drive-OMG, Inc. A copy of which can be obtained from the Conservation Commission Office or the Town Clerk’s Office.

VOTE 7-0-0

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

The Commission received a request to continue this agenda item until the February 23, 2023 meeting, as requested.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to continue the Certificate of Compliance-Nicole Terrace Subdivision-Lot 7-until the February 23, 2023 meeting.

VOTE 7-0-0

7. Correspondence and Complaints

The Commission received the superseding Determination of Applicability for 0 Shoemaker Lane and a representative from Eversource and Tighe & Bond will discuss the next steps at the February 23, 2023 meeting.

942 N. West Street-The homeowner would like to remove trees along the edge of the stream. The tree warden has been onsite and does not see an immediate threat, but should be addressed and the Commission will set up a site visit to see if an Emergency Order is needed. The tree warden will attend the site visit with the Commission.

Silver Lake still needs a site visit for the drainage pipe.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-January 26, 2023

Motion was made by Ms. Galiatsos and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the January 26, 2023 minutes as written.

VOTE 7-0-0

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

This agenda item was previously continued.

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

This agenda item was previously continued.

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

VOTE 7-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.