

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
March 10, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Henry Kozloski
S. Page Fallon
Sheryl Becker
Jill Ward
Frank Meagher
Keven Brown

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Magda Galiatsos

ALSO PRESENT:

Taryn Egerton

VIA Zoom Webinar

Mr. Kozloski called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

1. 6:00pm REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY – 190 M St–
Springfield Water and Sewer Commission

Kevin Smith and Matthew Doyon of AECOM were present on behalf of the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission to present the project to the Commission. Mr. Doyon stated the project involves site work along the Connecticut River, involving equipment upgrades to the electrical and process equipment, structural improvement and new electrical duct bank. He stated the new electrical duct bank is about 2 feet wide by 2.5 feet deep and will be installed below grade. Mr. Doyon stated the reason for the Request for Determination of Applicability is because the duct bank falls within the 200' Riverfront Area and believes an Order of Conditions may not be required is because the site is surrounded by a dike that was constructed to withstand a 100 year flood, and the dike would ensure no impact to the resource area. He stated it is in a FEMA designated flood zone, but that he thinks it is because the dike has not been vetted through FEMA. He noted the lowest spot elevation on the project site is 61 feet, but that FEMA flood 100 year elevation is 60 feet. Mr. Doyon also stated there will be grading or filling, and that after installing equipment it will be the same grade. Ms. Ward asked if there would be additional impervious area. Mr. Doyon stated there are some manholes created in the project which would create a small amount of additional impervious area. Mr. Smith stated that from an above grade perspective it is 3 foot diameter manhole and that the work is being done in the grass to avoid existing utilities. Mr. Kozloski agreed that the assumption on the dike is correct and that when the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission put pipes across the river, the Commission voted

that the area was not in the floodplain and was put as a finding in the Order of Conditions for that project.

Mr. Kozloski opened the meeting up to the public and there were no comments.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Fallon to issue a negative determination for REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY – 190 M St – Springfield Water and Sewer Commission

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

2. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – Notice of Intent – 0 South West Street & 0 Pine Street – Town of Agawam

This agenda item was previously continued to the March 24, 2022 meeting.

3. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – Notice of Intent – Aspenwood Associates LLC – 0 Silver Street & 0 Doane Avenue

Mr. Kozloski stated photographs of the project site have been sent to the members and that because of the bad weather, Mr. Kozloski went on site by himself to take the pictures. He stated that one of the wetlands in the Commission's jurisdiction has a steep bank and therefor would need more erosion controls. He stated that the second wetland had a tree fall on a preexisting road and was cut in half, and there has been some damage to the wetland, which will need to be addressed in the Order of Conditions when issued. Michelle Chase of Agawam Engineering was present during the meeting and went to the project site in the afternoon. She stated that areas outside of the commission's jurisdiction will be watched by the Engineering Department. She stated that during the site visit, it was noticed that there is some cleaning up of fallen trees, debris, and dumping that will need to take place beyond the limit of work as it is currently staked. Mr. Kozloski recommended a site visit to see where the minor violation has taken place and to see what type of erosion controls will need to be used at the site. Kirk MacNaughton of Aspenwood Associates, LLC was present to discuss the project and stated that the last time the project was before the commission, a bullet point list of items to be accomplished was given to him to be completed by this meeting. He stated that all items have been completed. Christin McDonough of SWCA was also present on behalf of the project. Ms. McDonough stated that SWCA did the original delineations and the Commission's 3rd party consultant review the boundaries in January 2020. She stated that the flags have been refreshed last week and Anderson Associates has certified that the flags have been properly surveyed. She also stated that the distance from the limit of work to the wetlands is 12 ft and 13.5 ft and showed where that information is located on the plans. Mr. Kozloski stated that because of the steep banks, better

erosion controls will need to be used and suggested a 12” silk sock with posts every 3 feet and hay bales behind it. Ms. McDonough stated that there is a rare species protection plan for Endangered Species which requires something more substantial for a limit of work barrier and suggested a silt fence to keep turtles from migrating into the construction zone. Mr. Kozloski stated he was only talking about the area with a steep banks. Mr. MacNaughton stated that the area the commission is worried about that has a tree blocking the road is due to trespassers with ATVs. Mr. Kozloski stated he would request an erosion control plan and stated that the area of the violation is minor.

Mr. Kozloski opened the meeting up to the public.

Lisa Patnode, 40 Doane Ave, questioned what was happening with the Conservation Restriction that was proposed. Mr. MacNaughton stated there isn’t much of an update but that at the last meeting there was a request for the Commission to take ownership of the open space parcel and that it was referred to the city solicitor. Mr. MacNaughton asked for permission for his attorney to speak with the town’s attorney and they had an initial conversation but no follow-up and is still up in the air. He stated that from the city solicitors report he didn’t seem thrilled with the proposal and Mr. MacNaughton is exploring other options. Ms. Patnode stated she also spoke with the city solicitor and that from their conversation he didn’t seem happy with the proposal.

There were no further public comments.

Mr. Kozloski stated that an onsite will need to be scheduled. The Commission and Mr. MacNaughton agreed that Thursday 3/17 at 11am would work for the onsite. Mr. MacNaughton requested a continuance to the next meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Becker to continue PUBLIC HEARING – Notice of Intent – Aspenwood Associates LLC – 0 Silver Street & 0 Doane Avenue to March 24, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

4. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – Notice of Intent – Main Street – Westfield River Interceptor Sewer Relocation Project – Agawam DPW (Continued to May 26, 2022)

This agenda item was previously continued to the May 26, 2022 meeting.

5. DISCUSSION – Virtual vs In Person Meetings

Mr. Kozloski stated that the Commission will have to go in person and that many other boards are currently in person. Mr. Brown stated that virtual meetings are still public meetings but Mr. Kozloski stated that in person meetings will need to resume at some point.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Fallon to return to in person meetings starting the first meeting in April which is April 14th, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE 5 – 1 (Meagher)

6. Correspondence and Complaints

Ms. Egerton stated there was one complaint at 358 Corey St but that two commission members made an onsite and did not see any violations.

Mr. Kozloski stated there is an emergency order request from Agawam DPW regarding the flooding problem near Kellogg Ave. Michelle Chase of Agawam Engineering presented and stated that Philo Brook flows North to South and demonstrated on Agawam GIS the path of the brook. She stated there are 3 different issues with the main issue being erosion and sediment that is being deposited at an outfall and the brook cannot handle big storm events and floods the area. She states there is a 42” culvert that the town tried to locate but has been submerged and everything in the area has to flow through. Ms. Chase stated the 3rd issue is that the area fills up and drains a little bit, but brush and downed trees have blocked the channel. There is a 36” pipe that was put in there by farmers as well. Ms. Chase showed a map with the location of the easement and then showed the location of stagnant water and where they would like to put a swale. She stated they want to create a positive flow but one challenge is that they will be 2-2.5 feet lower than the streambed. Ms. Chase said the streambed will need to be dredged and build up a berm. She then showed a map that has the elevations of the area including the elevation of the outlet pipe and streambed. Ms. Chase showed pictures of the site, noting the sediment at the outfall is not from the area as it is sandy and rocky. Ms. Ward asked when work would begin. Ms. Chase stated as soon as possible, hopefully next week or the week after. Ms. Chase shared an aerial from 1983 that shows the area with the culvert and the flow from the pipe has changed the direction of the brook. Mr. Brown asked whether a culvert is self-clearing, hoping that if one culvert is cleaned it won’t block another one. Ms. Chase stated that they haven’t been able to locate it because it’s so deep, but that they’re hoping to get to that. She stated they will have to keep an eye on the situation to see if any additional work is needed, such as having to clean out the whole stream. Mr. Brown asked if it would increase capacity so that if it backed up there it wouldn’t negatively affect residents. Ms. Chase stated that’s the goal so that the water doesn’t go into where Kellogg Ave is. Mr. Fallon stated that the stream would be lowered 3 feet in one point and at the invert it would be 2 feet and then increase to 2 feet and asked if that was correct. Ms. Chase said yes, right at the outfall it has scoured there and the stream is still 1 foot higher than the invert and then jumps up to be 6-8 inches deep due to silt and debris. Mr. Fallon asked if they would try to follow the original Philo Brook stream bed. Ms. Chase said no, they will try to keep it the way it is now and demonstrated the general direction on the map. She stated that this topic was debated many times in the office but that they are going to follow the existing streambed as it exists today. She stated they would try to make a berm and protect the area from flooding and try to direct the area to the south. Mr. Kozloski asked if it was more of a drainage system than a

stream and Ms. Chase said yes it is essentially a drainage outfall. Mr. Kozloski stated about every 5 years they dredge this part of the outlet because of the flooding.

Motion was made by Mr. Fallon and seconded by Mr. Brown to issue an Emergency Order for the Philo Brook area and to allow the work as shown in the plan.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 24, 2022 & March 2, 2022

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Becker to approve the minutes of February 24, 2022 as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to approve the minutes of March 2, 2022 as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

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

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 – 0

Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.