

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
March 23, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Keven Brown
Page Fallon (6:02)
Sheryl Becker
Magda Galiatsos
Frank Meagher

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Henry Kozloski
Jill Ward

ALSO PRESENT:

Pam Kerr
Taryn Egerton
Stefanie Kesecker

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

1. 6:00PM PUBLIC HEARING-NOTICE OF INTENT-5 Mark Drive-Pchelka

The Commission received a written request to continue this agenda item to the April 13, 2023 meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Galiatsos and seconded by Ms. Becker to continue the PUBLIC HEARING-NOTICE OF INTENT-5 Mark Drive-Pchelka to the April 13, 2023 meeting.

VOTE 4-0-0

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to take the agenda items out of order.

VOTE 5-0-0

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

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Becker to table this agenda item until the April 13, 2023 meeting, pending an onsite visit.

VOTE 5-0-0

5. Correspondence and Complaints

Ms. Egerton informed the Commission that the Health Department is working with the property owner regarding the tire pile complaint on the paintball field. The owner is working on a plan for the property and hopes to have it completed within 14 days and they are willing to work with the Commission and the Health Department.

Ms. Kerr informed the Commission a complaint was received regarding Town owned property at the end of Joanne Circle that a few of the trees have come down and the abutter would like someone to come and look at this area, the Commission is awaiting pictures as well.

Ms. Egerton updated the Commission that the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) contacted her in regards to a portion of the Connecticut River that has Hydrilla, which is an invasive species. Agawam is the only town in MA along the CT River where the species is found. They are planning to develop a survey and management plan to prevent its' spread and to control the existing infestation in Agawam. They will be coming up with a way to remove this as well as a maintenance plan. They will be attending the April 27, 2022 meeting to discuss with the Commission.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-March 9, 2023

Motion was made by Ms. Galiatsos and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the minutes of March 9, 2023.

VOTE 5-0-0

7. PUBLIC HEARING CONT.-NOTICE OF INTENT-1014 North St Ext-VIP Homes & Associates, LLC (Continued to April 13, 2023)

This agenda item was previously continued.

8. PUBLIC HEARING CONT.-NOTICE OF INTENT-Main Street-Westfield River Interceptor Sewer Relocation Project-Agawam.

The Commission received a written request to continue this agenda item to the June 22, 2023 meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Becker and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to continue the PUBLIC HEARING CONT.-NOTICE OF INTENT-Main Street-Westfield River Interceptor Sewer Relocation Project-Agawam, to the June 22, 2023 meeting as requested.

VOTE 5-0-0

2. 6:10PM REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION-174 Edgewater Road-Peterson Landscaping.

Hector Peterson III, with Peterson Landscaping was present for this agenda item. He stated there are 3 worrisome trees on the property that the owner would like to remove and the property is located within the 100 ft' of Silver Lake. One of the trees is leaning towards the homeowners' home and another is leaning towards his neighbors. He stated the trees have branches that have fallen off. Ms. Galiatsos asked how close the trees were to the home. Mr. Peterson stated the trees are located 18ft. from the edge of the home. He stated he knows there may be erosion from the trees taken down on the hillside and they are open to leaving the stump and roots, to ensure erosion control. Mr. Fallon asked about the topography of the location and which trees would have stumps removed. Mr. Peterson stated the only one that the stump would be removed would be at the front of the property that is not on the hill. Mr. Meagher stated the tree warden indicated the trees are healthy and have lost branches as trees do and an onsite by the Commission would be best. The homeowner, David Kutz spoke to the Commission about his fear of the trees falling and damaging his home, his neighbor's home, or falling on someone. He stated there are plenty of trees on the property and taking down these trees is for safety reasons. The Commission will schedule an onsite to look at the trees.

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Becker to continue this agenda item until the April 13, 2023, following an onsite visit.

VOTE 5-0-0

3. PUBLIC HEARING CONT.-NOTICE OF INTENT-North Westfield Street over May Hollow Brook-Town of Agawam DPW.

Ross Tsantoulis with Woodard and Curran, Inc. was present for this agenda item. He updated the Commission on the culvert replacement process for May Hollow Brook on North Westfield Street just south of Parkedge Drive. He stated the goal is to replace the deteriorating culvert, provide improved flow capacity, and to meet the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife passage. He stated this culvert was listed as a high priority for the Town and it has funding in place and he stated they hope to start construction this fall. He informed the Commission that in 2019 a site inspection was done and temporary work was completed to stabilize the culvert. He stated in the last 2 years a feasibility study was completed as well as 75% of the plan in the Notice of Intent. Mr. Tsantoulis said they are also working with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Army Corp. He informed the Commission the catch basin which will be relocated with deep sumps which will discharge to riprap and then to the culvert, which will improve storm water runoff. He stated the culvert will be 18ft. wide and 8'11" tall and 50ft. in length. Mr. Tsantoulis stated there will be no adverse impact on the downstream size as the culvert will be increased in size which will cause a 2 ft. reduction in flow and the velocity upstream will be increased. He stated they will be performing a scour analysis to make sure the foundation in the culvert is not undermined in a large storm event. He stated they will be replacing an abandoned manhole and tie it into a new drainage line outfall, which will stabilize outfall and provide a curb inlet that connects the runoff and then discharge it. Mr. Fallon asked if a concrete mat would be placed under the culvert to support it. Mr. Tsantoulis stated they are leaning towards it but still in the process of running calculations

and they should know in the next few weeks. Mr. Fallon asked if they will be excavating the entire stream bed. Mr. Tsantoulis said yes they will be dewatering, adding reinforcements, and pouring concrete. Mr. Fallon asked about the upstream side and the cut back near the road, as part of the wing wall. Mr. Tsantoulis said they will have a wing wall and will attempt to stay out of any resources or vegetated areas. Mr. Brown asked if the expansion and the flow velocity increase posed any risk to the undermining upstream side. Mr. Tsantoulis stated the plan show the design at 60% level and would be designed with riprap. Mr Meagher asked about an estimated time of completion for the project. Mr. Tsantoulis stated it depends on a number of factors, but ideally a few days to dewater, and excavate the site and installation of illumination arc panels, that his best estimate was 4-6 weeks.

Mr. Meagher opened the meeting for public comment.

David Conley, 157 Edgewater Rd asked if the culvert proposal had taken into consideration any improvements that may be performed on this roadway and would the elevation and width be the same. He also asked if the proposal took into consideration a broken pipe line. Mr. Tsantoulis said they were advised to continue the project as if the roadway width would remain the same. He further stated the plan take into consideration the 100 year storm.

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Fallon to continue this agenda item until the April 13, 2023 meeting.

VOTE 5-0-0

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

VOTE 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.