

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
May 25, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Magda Galiatsos

ALSO PRESENT:

Taryn Egerton
Pam Kerr
Stefanie Kesecker

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

1. 6:00PM-REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION-664 Suffield Street-Murphy

The applicant Thomas Murphy was present for this agenda item. He informed the Commission he wanted to put a 10x12 storage shed in a grassy area behind the dumpsters at this location. He stated he was willing to put stone down if needed. He stated he would not be completing any improvements in the Riverfront area. Ms. Ward asked about the elevation. Mr. Murphy stated he would defer to the shed company, but he believes it could be placed on the ground. Ms. Ward then asked about the depth of the gravel. Mr. Murphy stated it would be an inch or two in depth. Mr. Brown asked if any digging would be occurring for this project. Mr. Murphy stated no. Mr. Brown asked if the dumpsters would be moving. Mr. Murphy stated the dumpsters would be remaining in place. Mr. Fallon mentioned the only change occurring was an increase to the impervious surface area. Mr. Kozloski stated the issue was how the Riverfront or wetland would be affected, and if mitigation was needed. Ms. Kerr suggested an onsite. Mr. Murphy requested a two week continuance from the Commission, so they can perform an onsite visit.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to continue the REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION-664 Suffield Street to the June 8th, 2023 meeting.

VOTE 6-0-0

2. 6:05PM-PUBLIC HEARING-NOTICE OF INTENT-1070 Suffield Street-Town of Agawam

Doug Serrill, with Berkshire Design Group, was present for this agenda item. He informed the Commission that this parcel contains 5 acres of land. The site is bound by Suffield Street to the west, Gold Street to the south, and commercial and residential parcels to the northwest. The site includes a resource area of bordering vegetative wetlands (BVW) to the east. The current site improvements are within the wetland buffer, but no work is proposed in the BVW. He stated the proposed project includes expansion of the existing building on the northside by approximately 1,172 sq. ft. to add a secure sallyport. An additional parking area is proposed at the end of the northern parking area to develop a secure vehicle impoundment area. Asphalt paving is proposed along the northside of the building to allow for vehicular circulation in and out of the secure sallyport. He went on to say an additional driveline is proposed along the east side of the building to improve the safety and security and a secondary egress from northern and southern parking lot to exit to Gold Street. The existing southern and southwestern parking area is proposed for repaving, but no change to the size. Mr. Serrill stated due to the increase in impervious surface on the site, improvements to the existing drainage system are proposed and designed in accordance to State and local stormwater standards. He stated there are currently 3 catch basins and the proposal is to remove the northern one and replace this with a grass swale that has a sediment forebay that leads to a detention basin. The middle and southern catch basins will be replaced with stormceptor units. Mr. Serrill stated, DEP stated there is a small vernal pool located on the abutting parcel to the west and is approximately 100 ft. from boundary of the BVW and 125 ft. from the proposed erosion control barrier. He also informed the Commission the proposed work in the buffer zone is within an existing developed area and the aim would be to minimize disturbance in the undeveloped area, and native perennial vegetation could be proposed to clarify proposed vegetation in the detention basin. Mr. Serrill stated Engineering comments were received today and they will need to respond formally to them.

Mr. Kozloski went over the Engineering comments dated May 23, 2023. He stated the Commission would need to go onsite next week to see the vernal pool. He went on to say the Commission does have an Order of Conditions from when the building was first constructed. Per DEP the wetland flags must be shown on the maps. Mr. Kozloski also brought up the road being put in the buffer zone and the size of the road. Mr. Serrill stated that is what the Town had requested and was intended for fire safety and police security and would be 14 ft. Mr. Kozloski asked what plantings are proposed. Mr. Serrill stated a lot of vegetation has not been added, but it could be added into the plan. Ms. Kerr asked about the current plantings being removed. Mr. Serrill stated some would be removed, but all attempts will be made to keep as many as possible. Mr. Brown asked if any trees were being removed for the additional road. Mr. Serrill responded only a few of the trees in the northern area, but replacements could be added to enhance the buffer. Mr. Ward asked if the proposed grading of the swale and the detention pond will damage the roots to the Japanese maple and 24" willow tree. Mr. Brown asked if the new vehicle bay would have lifts. Mr. Serrill stated he was not sure, but an oil/water separator that would connect into the sanitary line. Mr. Brown stated his concern was subsurface oil spills. Mr. Fallon questioned the water drainage from the northern parking area. Mr. Serrill stated there are two catch basins the water sheets off too, then the water flows to the west to the wetlands. He stated the stormseptors should help collect solid materials.

Mr Kozloski opened the meeting for public comment.

Theresa Charkiewicz 1050 Suffield Street stated she was an abutter to this property and wondered what would be in her back yard. Mr. Serrill stated asphalt as exists currently. She then asked if the land could be dropped as there used to be a pond at this location and it was filled in by a previous owner. Mr. Serrill stated they are keeping the vegetation along the edge of her property and the elevation would not be changing.

Mr. Serrill stated he would send a written request to the Commission to continue the public hearing until June 8, 2023 meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to continue the PUBLIC HEARING-1070 Suffield Street-Town of Agawam, until the June 8, 2023 meeting.

VOTE 6-0-0

3. PUBLIC HEARING CONT.-NOTICE OF INTENT-North Westfield Street over May Hollow Brook-Town of Agawam DPW (Cont. to June 8)

This agenda item was previously continued

4. PUBLIC HEARING CONT.-NOTICE OF INTENT-1014 North St. Ext-VIP Homes & Associates LLC.

The Commission received a written request to continue this agenda item until the June 8, 2023 meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Brown to continue the NOTICE OF INTENT-1014 North St. Ext-VIP Homes & Associates LLC to the June 8, 2023 meeting.

VOTE 6-0-0

5. Planting Plan-Poplar Street

Viktor Savonin was present for this agenda item. He stated his planting plan for Poplar Street would include 8 red-osier dogwood trees 16ft. apart around the edge of the lawn, and along the embankment native wetland grass seed mix, to reestablish the embankment and allow it to regrow. He stated he cleaned up a lot of debris and the area is starting to reestablish naturally now. Mr. Fallon asked where the monuments on the plan. Mr. Savonin pointed them out. Mr. Savonin asked when he could remove the silt fence. Mr. Kozloski stated once all the plantings were in he could request a Certificate of Compliance and remove erosion controls.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to approve the planting plan-Poplar Street-Savonin.

VOTE 6-0-0

6. Request for Certificate of Compliance-Pheasant Hill Drive

Mr. Kozloski state there was an old Order of Condition on the property and has been completed.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Meagher to issue the Certificate of Compliance-Pheasant Hill Drive.

VOTE 6-0-0

7. Request for Certificate of Compliance 236 Lancaster Dr.

Ms. Egerton informed the Commission there was two past Order of Conditions for this location.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Becker to issue the Certificate of Compliance-236 Lancaster Dr.

VOTE 6-0-0

8. Correspondence and Complaints

Ms. Egerton informed the Commission a complaint of flooding was made regarding Parkedge Drive. Engineering went onsite and gave written recommendations, which Ms. Egerton has previously emailed the Commission members. Ms. Ward suggested a Request for Determination be filed.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Brown to have Engineering file an RDA with the Commission.

VOTE 5-0-1(Kozloski)

Ms. Egerton received a complaint about tree cutting on the parcel abutting 61 Valley St. She stated there is an Order of Conditions and the Commission needed to determine if the tree cutting was included in the Order. Ms. Ward suggested sending a letter to contact the Conservation Commission prior to any future work.

9. Approval of Minutes-May 11, 2023

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the minutes of May 11, 2023.

VOTE 6-0-0

10. PUBLIC HEARING CONT.-NOTICE OF INTENT-Main Street-Westfield River
Interceptor Sewer Relocation Project-Agawam (Continued to June 22, 2023)

This agenda item was previously continued.

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

VOTE 6-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.