

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
May 26, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Henry Kozloski
Sheryl Becker
Frank Meagher
Keven Brown
Magda Galiatsos
S. Page Fallon

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jill Ward

ALSO PRESENT:

Taryn Egerton
Pam Kerr
Hope Goff

Mr. Kozloski requested a moment of silence for the victims of the Texas school shooting. He then called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM

1. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – NOTICE OF INTENT – 497 South Westfield St – DePalma & Tirone

The Commission received a request to continue the public hearing until June 9, 2022.

Motion was made by Ms. Galiatsos and seconded by Mr. Meagher to continue the public hearing for Notice of Intent – 497 South Westfield St – Depalma & Tirone to June 9, 2022.

VOTE 6 – 0

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

Rich Niles, Woodard & Curran, was in attendance to present an update on the project. Andrea Kendall joined on line with Mr. Niles. Mr. Niles said they are permitting with several agencies. He gave an update on the riverfront restoration area which is documented in the NOI. He said he spoke with Emily Stockman and gave her their updated information. There will be an entrance from Pine Street for vehicles with a parking lot and also a foot path entrance. He said it will be a 2 to 1 restoration plan. LEC did an assessment of wildlife at the site. To start the restoration, the first 100' will be restored to a forest condition. The next 100' to 200' will be meadow. The outer

area will be maintained as a field. There are open meadow features for wildlife. At the start of the project the area will be mowed completely for 1 to 2 years to help manage invasive species. Mr. Niles said that a rare turtle was found on the property, previously they didn't think there were any endangered species. Ms. Stockman's comments were reviewed and she worked with Ms. Kendall. Ms. Stockman agreed with most everything and some will be subject to change with Natural Heritage. He noted that the mowing is a concern. The DPW will need to maintain the area and a mowing schedule will need to be worked out. He feels that mowing will need to be done once a year for part and 2 to 3 times a year for another. Ms. Kendall spoke of the forested habitat that they are hoping to develop and species of recommended trees. Mr. Niles added that after 2 years with a site management plan the planting will be done. Mr. Kozloski suggested that the DPW put in writing that they will maintain the property according to the plan. Mr. Fallon asked if the presence of the turtles would stop the whole project. Ms. Kendall said there would be discussions with Natural Heritage to work out a modified plan if necessary and implementation may take a different form. Mr. Fallon asked if there is concern about the DPW not following the mowing procedures. Ms. Kendall suggested using signage as a reminder. The project will be assessed after each mowing season to look at growth. The cost of the project was discussed. Mr. Niles said the total is \$6.1 million. He said also that there are grants to be applied for to help with this cost. He added that if there is not enough funding, the project can be done in phases. He then showed the Estimated Project Schedule on the screen. He said the bidding will be done in the fall and awarded in December with work starting early next year. Most of the major work will be done next year. Mr. Niles requested to continue the public hearing for one month.

Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Meagher to continue the Public Hearing – Notice of Intent – 0 South West Street & 0 Pine Street – Town of Agawam to June 23, 2022.

VOTE 6 - 0

3. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – Notice of Intent – Main Street – Westfield River Interceptor Sewer Relocation Project – Agawam DPW (Continued to September 22, 2022)

The Board received a request to continue the Public Hearing – Notice of Intent – Main Street interceptor project to September 22, 2022.

Motion was made by Mr. Fallon and seconded by Ms. Becker to continue the Public Hearing – Notice of Intent – Main Street – Westfield River Interceptor Sewer Relocation Project – Agawam DPW – to September 22, 2022.

VOTE 6 - 0

4. Correspondence and Complaints

272 Garden Street – Beaver issue – no request for Emergency Order received from the Health Department

86 Willowbrook – Flooding but no easement
84 Park Edge – The Commission went on site with Engineering
Kellogg Street – Complaint was work done by the Town under an Emergency Order
0 Shoemaker – The recording info was received and notification of trees being cut
727 River Road – One damaged tree that owner wants to remove and will replace with a smaller one.

Motion was made by Mr. Fallon and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to allow removal of the tree.

VOTE 6 – 0

School Street Park – The Town put a small shed on or very near to the wetlands.

Motion was made by Mr. Fallon and seconded by Mr. Meagher to have the shed moved out of the jurisdictional area.

VOTE 6 – 0

Ms. Egerton said that the Southgate improvement project – Eversource Energy – work will be starting June 6, 2022.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 12, 2022

Motion was made by Ms. Galiatsos and seconded by Mr. Meagher to approve the minutes of May 12, 2022 as written.

VOTE 6 - 0

6. Enforcement Order Updates

128 N. West Street – Referred to the Law Department
618 Barry Street – A site visit was done 2 weeks ago – grass still needs to grow.

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

VOTE 6 – 0

Meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm.