

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
July 13, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Henry Kozloski
Jill Ward
S. Page Fallon
Magda Galiatsos

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Frank Meagher
Sheryl Becker
Keven Brown

ALSO PRESENT:

Taryn Egerton

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

1. 6:00PM PUBLIC HEARING – Amendment to Order of Conditions – 0 South West Street & 0 Pine Street – Town of Agawam

Leyna Tobey with Woodard and Curran was present to discuss the changes in plan for 0 South West Street & 0 Pine Street (Tuckahoe Passive Recreation Project). She stated that there was a change in riverfront impacts between the permitting and construction plans due to the guardrail design. Ms. Tobey explained that the manufacturers of the retaining wall stated they would need a larger guardrail offset, resulting in an extra 1,163 square feet of Riverfront impacts. She stated there are no additional wetland impacts. Ms. Tobey stated the project also required Riverfront mitigation and, even with the additional impacts, there is still a 1:1 ratio for mitigation.

Mr. Kozloski then opened up the meeting to the public.

Thomas Drenzek, 150 Pine Street, questioned whether the stream running parallel to Pine Street is considered Riverfront. Ms. Tobey confirmed that it is an unnamed tributary to Still Brook and is considered Riverfront.

Stephen Czerpak, 544 South Westfield Street, asked how high and how deep into the wetlands the culvert was. Ms. Tobey explained that the box culvert is 8.5 feet wide and 4 feet tall. She stated it extends 2 feet into the wetlands, but explained they are also doing mitigation. Mr. Czerpak asked how high above the roadway the guardrail would be and Ms. Tobey stated 3 feet.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Fallon to close the public hearing for 0 South West Street & 0 Pine Street – Town of Agawam

VOTE 4 – 0

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Fallon to issue the Amended Order of Conditions, updating the Riverfront impacts and approving the Construction Plans drawn by Woodward & Curran entitled “Tuckahoe Farm Master Plan Improvements” dated June 2023.

VOTE 4 – 0

2. 6:10PM REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION – 54 Valley Street – Al Heron

Hussein Al Heron was present to discuss this agenda item. He stated his property is in the Riverfront, but is requesting to install a new gas line for the house as it is currently run on fuel. Eversource Energy would be installing the gas line from an existing line in the street. Mr. Kozloski mentioned that this type of project is exempt if it is currently existing in the roadway.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to issue a Negative Determination for 54 Valley Street.

VOTE 4 – 0

3. Discussion – Order of Conditions Review for 0 South West Street & 0 Pine Street – Town of Agawam

Frances Cameron, project manager, and Leyna Tobey, project engineer, were present on behalf of Woodard & Curran. Kyle Lavallo and Ken Straney were present on behalf of the contractor, ET&L. The Order of Conditions require a discussion to review the Order prior to work beginning on the project.

Mr. Kozloski asked where the DEP Number would be located and suggested putting it on the access road that will be used during construction. He suggested moving the sign to the entrance once that part of the project is completed. Mr. Straney agreed to this. ET&L stated that they are hoping to begin clearing on July 24th and then they will have the outside contractor put the erosion controls up. They are planning on putting the entire site’s erosion controls up at one time. Mr. Kozloski asked that the Commission be notified once they are in place so they can make a site visit. He also requested that the Commission be notified once work has begun on the entrance from Pine Street. ET&L stated the box culvert will be delivered in November so work in that area may start in October. Ms. Tobey stated that Woodard & Curran has ET&L’s construction schedule and it can be forwarded to the Commission. Mr. Kozloski stated the Commission would be making multiple site visits during the process, but urged ET&L to forward pictures as the project progresses.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos that Special Condition #4 for 0 South West Street & 0 Pine Street has been met with this discussion.

VOTE 4 – 0

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

The Commission received a written request to continue this public hearing to July 27, 2023.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Fallon to continue the Public Hearing for the Notice of Intent on North Westfield Street over May Hollow Brook – Town of Agawam DPW to the July 27, 2023 meeting.

VOTE 4 – 0

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

The Commission received a written request to continue this public hearing to July 27, 2023

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to continue the Public Hearing for the Notice of Intent – 1014 North Street Ext – VIP Homes & Associates LLC to July 27, 2023.

VOTE 7 – 0

6. Request for Certificate of Compliance – 5 Brookside Dr

Ms. Egerton explained this is a request for a Certificate of Compliance for an Order of Conditions that was issued in 1985. This particular lot had already been issued a Certificate in 1985, though the wrong lot number was put on the document. The Certificate of Compliance needs to be reissued with the proper lot number/address.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Fallon to issue the Certificate of Compliance for 5 Brookside Drive.

VOTE 4 – 0

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 22, 2023

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Fallon to approve the minutes of June 22, 2023 as written.

VOTE 4 – 0

8. Correspondence and Complaints

The Commission received a complaint about an orange tinge at the pond at the Mawaga Sporting Club on Adams Street. MassDEP was also notified. They notified Agawam Conservation Commission and Agawam Engineering Department of the complaint which they believed at the time was naturally occurring iron-oxide seeping out of the ground as a result of the recent dry and hot weather. However, further investigation upstream by MassDEP noted work being done at 415 Silver Street. Subsequently, they issued a Unilateral Administrative Order at 415 Silver Street for violations to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Massachusetts Clean Waters Act.

Kinder Morgan reached out to the Commission regarding an Emergent Planting Plan for Restoration Area 2 at the Tuckahoe Turf Farm Mitigation Site. This planting plan was required by MassDEP and they have since approved the plan for implementation. Kinder Morgan is requesting the Commission review it as well.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to approve the Emergent Planting Plan from Kinder Morgan entitled “Areas within RA-2 PEM Planting Plan” dated June 1, 2023.

VOTE 4 – 0

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

VOTE 4 – 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.