

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
September 23, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Henry Kozloski
S. Page Fallon
Magda Galiatsos
Jill Ward
Sheryl Becker

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Frank Meagher
Keven Brown

ALSO PRESENT:

Taryn Egerton

VIA Zoom Webinar

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

1. 6:00 PUBLIC HEARING – Request for Determination of Applicability – Lot 1 – North West Street – Gallagher

Christopher Karney, surveyor at R. Levesque Associates, presented the RDA. He said that Lot 1 off North West Street has 2 types of wetlands, BVW on the east side and isolated wetlands on the west. He said he is here regarding the boundaries of the wetlands. They are proposing the construction of a single family home on the site. He said silt fences will be in place for construction. Mr. Kozloski said that the Commission will go on site to determine if they agree with the wetland flags. He noted that the isolated wetlands are still under state regulations. Mr. Karney requested to continue the RDA for 3 weeks.

Motion was made by Mr. Fallon and seconded by Ms. Becker to continue the RDA – Lot 1 – North West Street – Gallagher – for 3 weeks to the October 14, 2021 Conservation Commission meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE 4 – 0

Motion was made by Mr. Fallon and seconded by Ms. Becker to take items 3, 7 & 9 of the Agenda out of order.

ROLL CALL VOTE 4 – 0

3. 6:30 – PUBLIC HEARING – Notice of Intent – Main Street – Westfield River Interceptor Sewer Relocation Project – Agawam DPW

The Commission received a request to continue the Public Hearing for Westfield River Interceptor for 3 weeks.

Motion was made by Mr. Fallon and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to continue the Public Hearing – Notice of Intent – Main Street – Westfield River Interceptor Sewer Relocation Project – Agawam DPW to the October 14, 2021 Conservation Commission meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE 4 – 0

7. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) – 311 Shoemaker Lane – Zielinski, Halladay Farms

A request was received from Jeff Smith to continue the Public Hearing for 311 Shoemaker Lane for 3 weeks.

Motion was made by Ms. Becker and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to continue the Public Hearing – Abbreviated Notice of resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) – 311 Shoemaker Lane – Zielinski, Halladay Farms to the October 14, 2021 Conservation Commission meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE 4 – 0

9. 358 Corey Street – Discussion & possible vote

A memo was received from City Solicitor Steve Buoniconti stating that the Law Department, Director of Planning & Community Development, Marc Strange, and John Ziegler of the Mass DEP have discussed a condition included in the Site Plan approval and Order of Conditions for the development of 358 Corey Street. The Law Department and DEP recommend special condition # 30 of the O of C dated January 14, 2021, “construction shall not begin until the Mass DEP audit related to RTN 1-16131 is complete and Notice of Audit Findings concludes that no further investigations or response actions are required” be stricken and replaced with “construction shall not begin until the Mass DEP audit related to RTN 1-16131 is complete and the Notice of Audit Findings reveals that no further investigations or response actions are required”. DEP is not requiring an amended O of C only the minutes and a letter addressing the change.

Motion was made by Ms. Becker and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to re-word special condition# 30 dated January 14, 2021, of the O of C for 358 Corey Street from “concludes” to ”reveals” as detailed above, **memo attached**.

ROLL CALL VOTE 3 – 0 – 1 (Fallon) Passed by the majority present.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – Notice of Intent – 62 West View Lane – Santaniello

Robin Casioppo, of GZA Environmental presented the NOI on behalf of Mr. Santaniello. They are proposing the construction of a single family home on the property. She shared her screen and explained that there is an intermittent stream to the south off site. She said the proposed house and garage are out of the 50' buffer zone. Silt fences and hay bales will be installed along the boundary for construction. Mr. Kozloski noted that the silt fence is on the driveway. Ms. Casioppo said that can be shifted south for driveway construction. Mr. Kozloski said the Commission needs to go on site to verify the wetland flags and asked Ms. Casioppo to put stakes where the house will be. He asked if there would be grading on the back of the house. Ms. Casioppo said that all grading will be outside of the 50' buffer zone. Mr. Kozloski said they would need to know the final grading plan for the on-site. Ms. Casioppo requested that the Public Hearing for 62 West View Lane be continued for 3 weeks.

Motion was made by Ms. Galiatsos and seconded by Ms. Becker to continue the Public Hearing – Notice of Intent – 62 West View Lane – Santaniello to the October 14, 2021 Conservation Commission meeting.

VOTE 4 - 0

4. 6:00 PM – PUBLIC HEARING – Notice of Intent – 0 South West Street & 0 Pine Street – Town of Agawam

Present for the Town of Agawam was Rich Niles, project manager for Woodard & Curran. Mr. Niles said that he has been reviewing comments from Stockman Associates and DEP with Engineering. He said that there is no revised storm water report or final design but they have been working on options to address comments from the last meeting focusing on storm water management. The comment was to modify the plan so as to not have bioretention ponds or infiltration basins in the riverfront area. The DEP comments asked for more clear documentation. Mr. Niles said they will employ LAD principles wherever possible. He added that one of the site constraints is shallow ground water. Mr. Niles said that storm water management is allowed within the riverfront area but they will try to minimize that as much as possible. He went on to say that, as for the general design approach, one of the major principles is to minimize and avoid impacts and disturbances to the project. They also looked at how to eliminate as much gray infrastructure as possible and to follow natural drainage patterns. The plan did have walkways along the roadways which made managing the storm water difficult. Now the plan includes swales and country drainage in between the walkways and the roadways running down to the pond. He noted that extra impervious areas are being added. To meet the storm water standards they need to provide for infiltration which becomes difficult with shallow ground water.

Ms. Ward entered the meeting at 6:38.

Mr. Niles said rain gardens were discussed as a possibility. The road follows along the ridge and flows down to the resource area. They discussed reducing Pond 1 by 10%. The concern with this is the potential of untreated storm water. He also said that breaking up one drainage area to have several makes maintenance difficult and there is a higher risk for failure. Michelle Chase, Town Engineer, said she has been working with Mr. Niles to look at other options including rain gardens. There are challenges with the elevation and treating the storm water before it goes to the resource area. She is also concerned with the maintenance for the DPW. Mr. Niles suggested elongating Pond 1. He said he will try to decrease the overland flow but he doesn't want to change the natural drainage patterns. Mr. Fallon suggested putting another basin further up the hill and reduce Pond 1 by 10%. Mr. Niles said he is trying to maintain the storm water flows. There was discussion of revision options including Basin 3 on the other side of the dam, the parking area, swales, and street flow. Mr. Niles also discussed extending the roadway, shift the area up to where the hill breaks and treat the storm water on the other side. Mr. Fallon asked if the road over the dam was a single lane road. Mr. Niles said yes, that is appropriate for the intensity of use and reduces the footprint of the road. He added there will be multiple parking sites. Mr. Kozloski asked if there will be fencing on the sides of the road. Mr. Niles said there would be guard rails. Mr. Kozloski noted that the hearing will be kept open until the Army Corp. permit is given and he asked when this will be ready to which Mr. Niles replied perhaps the next meeting. The resource areas were delineated by SWCA for Tennessee Gas which has an open DEP file # and also by LEC Environmental. There was discussion about which delineation should be used. It was decided that the discrepancies warrant further review in the field. Mr. Kozloski will call the DEP concerning the best way to resolve the delineation issue. Emily Stockman, Stockman Associates, said she spoke with Mark Stinson of the DEP and encouraged the Commission to reach out to him as well. She said the boundaries are set under an open Order of Conditions for TGP, therefore, SWCA boundary lines must be used. She suggested investigating a partial Certificate of Compliance for TGP but because they are still actively working on site it would be difficult. Mr. Kozloski suggested a meeting with himself, Mr. Fallon, Ms. Ward, Mr. Niles, DEP, LEC and the DPW possibly on site. There was discussion of the seed mixes, plantings and their impacts on the riverfront area. They discussed mitigation and wild life habitat. An onsite visit would be needed to observe the vegetation including invasive species. Ms. Ward suggested having a combination of areas to be restored with plantings and areas to be left alone maybe 1/3 plantings and 2/3 watch over time. Mr. Niles said this would be an opportunity to enhance the river front and some management of vegetation can be done. Ms. Ward would like there to be a focus on promoting habitats for various species such as turtles, birds and butterflies when doing the mitigation. Mr. Niles said there should be untouched habitat areas but he will obtain more information. Ms. Stockman noted that control of invasive species should be included. Andrea Kendall of LEC Environmental explained that there are 2 crossings where the wetland system will be impacted – the roadway crossing at the BVW and the area where the box culvert will be installed. She went on to say that further south of the crossing there is an existing farm road which has 2 concrete culverts associated with it. The upland area has wetland vegetation and contains fill that will be removed and the BVW restored. She said they will establish a new stream channel with a goal of providing or restoring the vegetative stream bank with more plantings. Both sides of the culvert will have approximately 733SF for restoration area. She also said that the proposed walkway will align with the existing farm road. The existing culvert will be removed and there will be a new stream channel with a 10' bridge.

She said these are temporary disturbances and the area will be restored. In the end, the stream will flow more freely. Ms. Kendall said that at the dam they are proposing both permanent and temporary wetland impacts to the BVW, land under water and to the bank. Steep slopes could result in tree removal. There will also be impacts at the north area where riprap will be used only for the embankment of the dam itself. They will be dewatering and do a partial drain down of the pond to facilitate the work, using temporary coffer dams. When the work is finished the water level will be brought back up. Ms. Ward asked what time of year this will be done. Mr. Niles said low flow season but not in winter due to stabilization issues. He will clarify this with the Army Corp. Ms. Kendall said she will follow up on DEP comments. Mr. Kozloski asked for public comment. There was none.

Mr. Niles requested to continue the Public Hearing to October 14, 2021.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Fallon to continue the Public Hearing – 0 South West Street & 0 Pine Street – Town of Agawam to the October 14, 2021 Conservation Commission meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE 5 - 0

5. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. – Request for Determination of Applicability – 0 (737) South Westfield Street – Mario Mazza – Agawam DPW

Andrea Kendall of LEC Environmental gave an update on the field review with Ms. Stockman. She said Ms. Stockman met with Claire Hildebond of LEC to review the wetland delineation. Some adjustments were made in the field and LEC has prepared a revised plan with revised buffer zone and wetland flag locations. To maintain an offset from the buffer zone of the stream that crept into the work area the DPW would lose one acre of the parcel. Now that the wetland line has been confirmed she feels comfortable moving the edge of the limit of work to 10' off the 100' buffer zone. The south side was moved from 100' to 25' off the easement to gain more land area. Ms. Kendall acknowledges that there was no on site peer review of the easement to confirm that there were no wetlands in the easement that would put the buffer zone back onto the project site. She said she will have a clarified plan understanding that there will be more edits to come. Mr. Kozloski feels there should be markers showing the buffer zone. Mr. Niles said the DPW discussed placing boulders every 50' with signage as well. He went on to say that the storm water design will require a survey to support its design. The limit of clearing will be delineated to place the boulders. There will be a Site Plan to be approved by Engineering as the storm water permit does apply. There was discussion of the wording for the signs such as "no work beyond this point" or "not for public use". Mr. Niles also noted that there will be storm water features in the area that will make it not feasible to encroach on the wetlands. Ms. Stockman said she received a revised site plan yesterday and has peer review comments. Her comment letter states that she concurs with the boundaries on the revised site plan. She said there are a few discrepancies that need to be adjusted but she concurs with the flagging that has been done. She went on to say that the terrain is very dense with lots of invasive species but she did discover the wetland area that Ms. Kendall spoke of. Her concern is the defined project area as it relates to the easement. The project area was 100' from the easement on the original plan so they did not explore the easement. She observed wetland vegetation within the easement at South Westfield

Street. With the amended plan she cannot say conclusively that the work is outside of the buffer zone. Ms. Stockman suggested going back on site observing boundaries and the buffer zone. She also said the Commission could close the public hearing noting the 100' buffer zone as observed in the field. Mr. Niles and John Decker, Agawam DPW, said they could pull back to 100' as the central portion of the site will be most utilized. Mr. Kozloski said the Commission could ask for a new revised plan or accept the current plan. Ms. Stockman recommended a new site plan. Mr. Niles requested to continue the Public Hearing for 737 South Westfield Street to the next Planning Board meeting.

Motion was made Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Becker to continue the Public Hearing – Request for Determination of Applicability – 0 (737) South Westfield Street – Mario Mazza – Agawam DPW to the next Conservation Commission meeting on October 14, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE 5 - 0

6. PUBLIC HEARING CONT. - REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY – 32 Shoemaker Lane – Beach Mountain, LLC

A request was received to continue the Public Hearing - Request for Determination of Applicability – 32 Shoemaker Lane – Beach Mountain, LLC to the next Conservation Commission meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to continue RDA – 32 Shoemaker Lane – Beach Mountain, LLC – to the next Conservation Commission meeting on October 14, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE 5 – 0

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

A request was received from Mr. MacNaughton to continue the Public Hearing to the next Conservation Commission meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Fallon to continue the Public Hearing – Notice of Intent – Aspenwood Associates LLC – 0 Silver Street & 0 Doane Avenue to the next Conservation Commission meeting on October 14, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE 5 – 0

10. Safety Vests – Discussion and possible vote

Ms. Egerton showed the Commission a sample of a safety vest commonly used by the Town that was provided by the Town's Procurement Officer. The color is yellow and the cost is \$11. Mr. Kozloski noted that 15 vests will be needed.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Galiatsos to purchase 15 yellow safety vests at a cost of \$11 each.

ROLL CALL VOTE 5 - 0

11. Correspondence and Complaints

411 Southwick Street – A site visit will be set up
Line Street – a site visit will be set up

12. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 9, 2021

Motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Becker to approve the minutes of September 9, 2021 as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE 5 – 0

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

ROLL CALL VOTE 5 – 0

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Hpg