



TOWN OF MENDON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Meeting Date: 24-04-11

Meeting Location: Hybrid Teams / 2nd Floor Meeting Room

Minutes Approved: 24-04-25

Members Present: Carl Hommel, Lea Whiting, Peter Coffin, Bob Sweet, Susan Cahalan

Members Absent: Tim Aicardi, Mike Ammendolia

Conservation Agent: Isabella Genova

Others: Adam J. Brodsky (Attorney representing Rt. 85 Realty), Kathryn Hackenson (25 Washington St), Bill Vincent, Margaret Vincent, Greg Vincent (58A Milford St), Carol Howarth (4 Eight Rod Rd)

Recording: https://youtu.be/eIHR98_sqSA?si=zn8jXnFGWAGF40II

Quorum met at 7:00 and the recording started. The meeting is called to order by Chair Carl Hommel and the Conservation Commission members introduce themselves. Lea Whiting, Bob Sweet, Peter Coffin.

45-49 Uxbridge Rd

Isabella informs the Commission that she, Dylan Lindholm (Assistant Town Planner), and Jeff Walsh (Graves Engineering) attended a site inspection with applicant John Nenart (Rt. 85 Realty) on April 10th. Isabella is expecting a site review from Jeff, prior to the Planning Board meeting on April 22nd. The site currently is not experiencing any erosion control issues. They have spread mulch over a large portion of the upland area, and a majority of the site was hydroseeded with an upland conservation mix on April 10th. Reviewed most recent SWPPP report. Chair Carl states the discussion on peer review will be postponed another two weeks.

There has been correspondence from concerned neighbors regarding the blasting permit that may be obtained for the remainder of the rock ledge on site. Isabella had spoken with the DEP Circuit Rider, to review the standards for wetland protection during blasting. As the Conservation Commission has already reviewed the project and approved the grade changes with the current Order of Conditions, it is the applicant's decision for how they get the site to the approved grade. A blasting permit would be issued by Mass DOT and the Mendon fire department, and there will be conditions for well monitoring and foundation testing by them.

Susan Cahalan arrives.

Kathryn Hackenson (25 Washington St) is concerned for the proximity of the blasting within 100 ft of wetlands and the intermittent stream, as well as within 200 ft of private wells and Lake Nipmuc. She suggested the applicant consider the infused grout method which has less likely hood to impact wells and release toxic chemicals. She would like to see more consideration of alternative methods, rather than potentially having negative impacts.

Susan asks how deep the wells in the proximity are, and if they are hydrologically connected.

Peter expresses interest in the infused grout method.

Chair Carl states that concerns about blasting should be directed to the applicant or the fire department. If any impacts on the wetlands due to blasting are observed, then the Commission will take any necessary action.

Correspondence

A letter from Massachusetts Society of Conservation Professionals (MSMCP) to DEP regarding updates to the Wetland Protection Act addresses additional concerns and recommendations for the WPA. Isabella asks if the Commission would like to submit their own comments.

Lea asks if Isabella had followed up with 20 Lovell St (Vandervalk parking lot) about cleared trees, not yet.

6A West Hill Dam COC Request

Review request for a Certificate of Compliance for 6A West Hill Road DEP #218-0804 by Gary Gaffney for the construction of a single-family home and associated utilities. made June 20th 2023. Commissioners signed the paperwork.

16 Kelley Rd COC Request

Review request for a Certificate of Compliance for 16 Kelley Rd DEP #218-0794 by Jennifer D'Alio for the construction of a single-family home. Commissioners signed COC paperwork.

58C Milford St Minor Modification

Request by Bob Sweet to return back to the originally approved plans for a 15" HDPE pipe under the driveway. This plan was amended in June 2023 under the approved OOC for DEP #218-0833. Applicant Bob Sweet will leave the opening of the pipe to not disturb the outfall and stone wall on the property of 58A.

Bill Vincent (58A Milford St) expressed concern for the amount of water that will be released with an updated pipe. Greg Vincent is concerned for potential flooding by the increase in volume.

Bob states that he will be installing a check dam before the pipe to prevent the release of water during the pipe replacement. Once the pipe is finished, the check dam will be removed gradually.

The agent will take photographs before and after the pipe is installed.

Carol Howarth (4 Eight Rod Rd) expressed concerns that the wetland is encroaching more towards her property as the water is currently not moving.

Peter makes the motion to approve the request to return to the original plans for 58C Milford St, seconded by Susan. Passes unanimously, with Bob recusing.

Site Monitoring

SWPPP reports from 3/15, 3/25, 3/29, still some erosion issues on Lot 14, but with upcoming hydroseeding this should be corrected.

Building Permits

RES-24-18, RES-24-19, RES-24-20, 134 North Ave – on hold

RES-24-55, 93 Northbridge St – on hold, add 12"x24" garage bay to existing garage within the 100' buffer. Sylvan Springs has requested a COC for this site, to allow the current owner to submit an RDA.

Updates

Conservation Agent Updates. Isabella attended the Select Board meeting on 4/10 to assist Jon Dudley on the Providence St culvert, SB approved the Tighe & Bond proposal. The next meeting 4/24 will have public hearings for 35-37 Hastings St and 49 Milford St, Isabella would like Commissioners to offer dates for site inspections. Isabella is working on a boiler plate Order of Conditions for Mendon. Isabella met with Metacomet Land Trust about the Maple Farm Conservation Restriction, and they will be attending the next meeting to review the document. Spent \$42.49 on trash bags to donate to the Annual Town Meeting. Lastly, Isabella, Dylan Lindholm, and Jack Hunter, will be meeting with the property owner of 3 Morrison Dr on April 17th.

Representative Bob Sweet states Lake Nipmuc Task Force has not met, but he did attend the Lake Nipmuc Association meeting on April 9th. They spoke about the blasting at 45-49 Uxbridge Rd, beaver activity at the outfall, reinstalling buoys, and water height of the lake.

Representative Peter Coffin states the Land Use Committee had not met; Isabella updates the signs were installed in Meadow Brook Woods.

Review and approve Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from 24-03-14 as written by Bob, seconded by Lea, passed unanimously.

Motion to approve minutes from 23-03-28 as written by Bob, seconded by Lea, passed unanimously.

Items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting

Peter would like to see an update about 10 Taft Ave and the retaining wall that was built.

Motion to adjourn by Peter seconded by Lea, passed unanimously 8:21pm.