



TOWN OF MENDON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Meeting Date: 1/27/2022
Meeting Location: Remote Teams meeting
Minutes Approved: 2/10/2022

Members Present: Damon Tinio, Peter Coffin, Susan Cahalan, Michael Ammendolia, Carl Hommel
Members Absent: Emilio Perez, Timothy Aicardi
Conservation Agent: Emily Petro
Others:

Damon Tinio called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

Daniel Wells of LEC Environmental Consultants presented revised plans associated with the **Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (DEP File #218-0819) for 23 Cape Road**. Mr. Wells discusses changes to the wetland flags and perennial status of Mill Brook in response to Dr. Desheng Wang's peer review comments. Mr. Wells concludes his discussion and allows for a response from Dr. Wang. Dr. Wang summarized the findings of his peer review and expressed satisfaction with the revisions made by LEC Environmental. Dr. Wang concludes his presentation and Chairman Damon Tinio allows for questions from Commission Members. Commission Members do not have questions for Dr. Wang or Daniel Wells. Vice Chairman Peter Coffin comments on his appreciation of the applicant conceding to Dr. Wang's opinion that Mill Brook is to be considered a perennial stream.

Member of the public Mr. Philip Bisaga of 121 Hartford Avenue East expresses concerns about the project's potential approval. Vice Chairman Peter Coffin clarifies that the ANRAD being reviewed by the Commission is only the first step in the multi-level permitting process and the only information being reviewed by the Commission at this time are the locations of Resource Areas on site.

Vice Chairman Mr. Coffin directs a question towards Dr. Wang regarding Muddy Brook's status as a cold water fishery and its eventual connection to Mill Brook and the implications of this. Dr. Wang mentions that the design of any stormwater management system associated with the project should implement measures to ensure water quality and that Mill Brook's status as perennial and the associated Riverfront Area should allow for the Commission to adequately protect wildlife.

Member of the Public Mr. Randal Ranaudo asks for clarification regarding when members of the Public will be able to discuss the project's impacts on residents and the Town of Mendon. Conservation Agent Emily Petro offers clarification, stating that the appropriate venue for these types of discussions would be a Planning Board meeting where they will discuss items such as traffic, design, drainage, etc. Mr. Coffin mentions that the Applicant will be back before the Commission with a Notice of Intent that will show the full scope of the project. Commission Member Carl Hommel offers additional clarification in regard to the

preliminary design steps being taken by the Applicant. Chairman Damon Tinio speaks to the idea that Town Boards and Commissions cannot deny projects based on personal agenda and the importance of ensuring the legality of the Town's review of projects. Mr. Ranaudo asks an additional question regarding the impacts to water supply. Mr. Tinio directs question to Mr. Daniel Byer, Director of Parks and Recreation and Municipal Clerk for the Mendon Water Commission. Mr. Byer explains that Mendon Water will have to communicate with Hopedale Water, and that Hopedale Water has said under no uncertain circumstances will Hopedale permit anymore new potable, domestic connections.

Member of the Public Mr. Bruce Howe of 5 Joseph Road comments that a few weeks prior, a meeting was held between Mendon Water Commission, Hopedale and Bluewater (the applicant) and his opinion is that the Mendon Water Commissioner lobbied quite successfully to have the Hopedale Water Commissioners entertain a meeting with Bluewater for the purpose of discussing a fire connection, despite the fact that 23 Cape Road is not on the contract. Mr. Howe then asks about the Wetland Resource Area that is north of the solar field on the abutting property to the south. A discussion takes place about where the wetland is located and if it exists, because the area was not identified on the plan submitted by LEC Environmental.

Mr. Daniel Wells addresses the Commission and asks for confirmation of the resource areas on the 23 Cape Road property. Mr. Wells mentions that the wetland in question will be addressed in the Notice of Intent application and that he will pass the information onto his client.

Dr. Wang asks Agent Emily Petro to find past filing documents to identify the wetland in question and submit any findings to himself and Mr. Wells.

Damon Tinio makes motion to approve delineation as recently revised for the 23 Cape Road property, seconded by Michael Ammendolia. Roll call vote: Mike Ammendolia: aye; Carl Hommel: aye; Susan Cahalan; aye; Peter Coffin: aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Minutes prepared by Emily Petro, Agent