

**HANSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2019
TOWN HALL, 542 LIBERTY STREET, HANSON, MA**

Called to Order at 7:00 PM under M.G.L. c 131, §40 and the Hanson By-Law 3-13, §5 and Rules and Regulations by Phil Clemons, Chairman, in Meeting Room A at the Town Hall.

Present: Phil Clemons, Chairman
Paul Andruk, Vice Chairman
Sharon LePorte, Member
Michael DeVeuve, Clerk
Absent: William Woodward, Member
Also Present: Rebecca Nehiley, Administrative Assistant

Public Hearings

7:00 PM Request for Determination of Applicability for test pits within the Buffer Zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland at County Road, Map 74, Lots 7 & 8 for County Road Partners, LLC represented by AMEC Massachusetts, Inc., 271 Mill Road, Chelmsford, MA **(New Hearing)**

Mr. DeVeuve read the Public Hearing Notice and the abutters were verified. Mr. Richard Niles, P.E. on behalf of the applicant, made the presentation. The Site Plan (dated 1/7/19) depicted the location of the test pits/soil borings to be used for development of the final design of stormwater management for a proposed solar photovoltaic array installation (solar farm). The Plan depicted existing conditions, site features and property lines for perspective. The applicant proposes to clear a six-foot wide path through the 100' buffer zone to accommodate a mini track-mounted excavator and an all-terrain drill rig. No work is proposed within the 50' No Disturb Zone. Erosion control is proposed at the entrance to the site and down-gradient of the test pit locations.

Mr. Clemons asked if it was feasible to go through existing openings in the stone walls. Mr. Niles answered that he had walked the site and the stone walls, in some areas, are not very high and it may be easy to drive over them. Mr. Clemons asked for comments from abutters. Those present were:

Sean Kealy, 131 Holmes Street – What is the testing for and what is the standard that the Commission is looking for? Mr. Clemons said they were looking at the soil horizons and the mineral makeup as it's important to know whether the soil will hold up to handle the stormwater.

Robert & Marian Scott, 119 Holmes Street - Mr. Clemons read a letter from into the record dated 1/3/19 (attached to minutes)

Ken Anderson, Anderson Surveys, Inc., High Street – Noted that the site plan is stamped by an engineer, but if the plan depicts property lines, it should be stamped by a Professional Land Surveyor (PLS).

Motion to approve a Neg. 3 Determination of Applicability with conditions (the work described in the Request is within the Buffer Zone, as defined in the regulations, but will not alter an Area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent):

Paul Andruk

Second: Michael DeVeuve

Vote: 4-0-0

**HANSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2019
TOWN HALL, 542 LIBERTY STREET, HANSON, MA**

Mr. Niles asked the Commission if a tree inventory should be conducted just within the buffer zone or for the whole project and to what level of detail should be provided for the Notice of Intent. Mr. Clemons answered that the Conservation Commission looks seriously at the stewardship of uplands and in fact the State has expressed different opinions on trading spaces like these for solar fields. Because Hanson values it's resources, he suggested they should quantify the effect of the whole project and since this is the first project of this type and size, the Commission would like an estimate of everything. Ms. LePorte added that they should provide the predominance of species.

Appointments

7:15 PM Appointment with Ken Anderson of Anderson Surveys, Inc. to discuss survey and boundary markers at Whitman Street, Map 109, Lot 5

Mr. Anderson stated that the Commission had hired him to mark the property lines. To that end, the official records did not match what he discovered on the ground. The Deed was compiled from information found at the time and not to current standards because of advanced technology. He reported that the old plan is totally incorrect; the bearings are in the wrong quadrant by 25'. He put in the stone bounds in the correct places as well as rebar with aluminum caps. The area in question used to be known as Cushing's Pond and is now almost entirely swamp land. The property is significantly larger than originally known to be; 7 ½ acres vs. 7.23 acres. Mr. Anderson suggested that the two options are to do nothing, or to spend a couple of hundred dollars to have a new mylar drawn and put on record and have Town Counsel create an affidavit to the Deed. The Commission decided to take it under advisement.

7:30 PM Appointment with Lee Gamache of the Town 200th Anniversary Committee to discuss the rental of the Nathaniel Thomas Mill for a fundraiser during the month of August.

Ms. Gamache attended the meeting to seek approval to use the Mill during the month of August, 2019 for a Traveling Wampanoag Indian Tribe educational exhibit. The exhibit is going to be a fundraiser for the 200th Anniversary celebrations that will take place in 2020.

Motion to approve the request from the 200th Anniversary Committee to use the Nathaniel Thomas Mill for the month of August gratis: Sharon LePorte

Second: Paul Andruk

Vote: 4-0-0

Discussions

Request for a Certificate of Compliance to close out an old Order of Resource Area Delineation at Great Cedar Condominiums (DEP #SE175-0461)

Motion to approve and issue a Certificate of Compliance to close out the file:

Michael DeVeuve

Second: Paul Andruk

Vote: 3-0-1 (Sharon LePorte abstained)

**HANSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2019
TOWN HALL, 542 LIBERTY STREET, HANSON, MA**

Request for a Certificate of Compliance for 1460 Main Street, Map 44, Lots 5-1, 5-2, 5-3 & 5-4 (Great Cedar Condo's) for Roger Morton (DEP #SE175-0597)

Motion to approve estimate from John W. Delano to review the Roadway As-Built:

Paul Andruk

Second: Michael DeVeuve

Vote: 3-0-1 (Sharon LePorte abstained)

The Request for Certificate of Compliance was continued until the next meeting.

Deposit Agreement for Surety for 1101 Main Street Rear – **signed**

Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes of November 27, 2018: Sharon LePorte

Second: Paul Andruk

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion to approve the Minutes of December 11, 2018: Sharon LePorte

Second: Michael DeVeuve

Vote: 4-0-0

Old Business/New Business

Express Newspapers/Invoice – **signed**

WB Mason/Invoice – **signed**

Anderson Surveys, Inc./Invoice – **signed**

Mr. DeVeuve, as member of the Hanson Energy Committee, reported to the Commission that the Town of Hanson had received the distinguished designation of a being a "Green Community." This was a result of many hours of hard work by various entities and now opens up the possibility of energy saving grant opportunities to the Town.

Adjournment

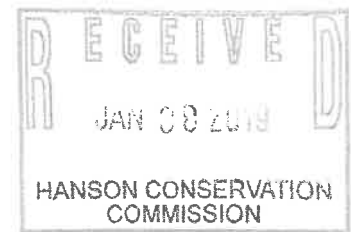
Motion to adjourn at 8:25 PM: Michael DeVeuve

Second: Sharon LePorte

Vote: 4-0-0

January 3, 2019

Phil Clemons
Conservation Commission Chairman
Town Hall, 2nd Floor
542 Liberty Street
Hanson, MA
02341



Dear Phil:

We are abutters on the south side of the proposed solar project on County Rd. (Robert and Marian Scott 65-11-1 NF 4183/547). As we are currently on vacation in Florida for the winter and unable to attend the conservation hearings regarding the property located on Map 74 lots 7 and 8, we would like to voice our concerns by way of this document and request it to be read at the hearing.

1. Of great concern is the potential for flooding that will be greatly increased when and if the applicant cuts down several acres of trees as proposed. This section of town already has a major problem of flooding as substantiated by the basements that have flooded and the resident's yards which are unusable for a large part of the year. Many residents are using more than 1 sump pump to try to keep ahead of the flooding. We are also concerned as to what effect this deforestation will have on existing septic systems. Raising the ground water level will most likely cause existing systems to not function properly resulting in sewerage spillage. Is it possible to predict accurately if the proposed infiltration basins will adequately contain the additional thousands of gallons of water this deforestation will produce?
2. Our second concern is that if the proposed cutting of several acres of trees is done that the remaining trees in the buffer zone (100 foot setback) and on our property will be subject to an enhanced wind sheer problem. This deforestation would cause the existing trees to fall on our property, house and out buildings during periods of Northeasters. This was evident during the winter of 2017 when even with the existing buffer zone we lost 7, 70 to 80 foot trees barely missing our house and outbuildings.
3. Our third concern is for the health and protection of residents. There is an abundance of wildlife in the proposed area. The cutting of their habitat will force the aggressive, as well as other animals, into the resident's backyards. We are worried about the danger to residents, especially children playing in the neighborhood. The area in question is inhabited by many aggressive species of animals. Residents are constantly sighting coyotes, fisher cats, and fox as well as the more docile species of deer, turkeys, rabbits etc. These animals will be forced out of their natural habitat and into neighboring backyards. If this project goes forward will there be any attempt to relocate the wildlife?

4. Our final concern is for the 100' setback that has been approved by the planning board. If this project goes forward we would like to see a stipulation that this setback be maintained in perpetuity for this project and any other solar projects that should be requested in the future in the Town of Hanson. To protect the rural nature of the Town of Hanson and beauty of our town we would like to have it stipulated that no variances be allowed to this bylaw now or in the future.

We would like to close with a quote from the Governor of Massachusetts and endorsed by the town of Hanson Board of Selectmen a few years ago at the Arbor Day Celebration:

"Trees can help prevent erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life giving oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife. Trees in our town increase property values, the economic vitality of the business areas and beautify our community."

If you have any questions regarding our concerns we can be reached at either of the following cell phone numbers:

Bob 617- 686- 3161
Marian 617- 645- 9985

Sincerely,

Bob and Marian Scott
119 Holmes St.
Hanson, Ma. 02341
rinkmom899@aol.com