

**HANSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2017
TOWN HALL, 542 LIBERTY STREET, HANSON, MA**

Called to Order at 6:30 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
Absent: Bill Woodward, Member
Brenna Audette, Clerk
Also Present: Laurie Muncy, Agent
Rebecca Nehiley, Administrative Assistant
Michael DeVeuve, Associate Member

Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of May 23, 2017: Sharon LePorte

Second: Paul Andruk

Vote: 3-0-0

Appointments

6:30 PM Appointment with Josh Bows, Merrill Associates, Inc. to discuss filing requirements for the construction of a utility building for Columbia Gas of Massachusetts at Whitman Street and Winter Streets, Map 106, Lot 11

Mr. Josh Bows, P.E. and Nick Saccone, Field Engineer for Columbia Gas of Massachusetts (CMA) approached the Commission to discuss the replacement of an underground utility station located at the corner of Brook and Winter Streets with a new station at a different site that better fits their needs. Mr. Bows explained that currently, the underground station presents a number of issues including corrosion and lack of parking. The new site is approximately 9 acres in size, is mostly wetland, and is surrounded by town property on all sides. There is an area of upland fronting Whitman Street where they propose to construct an above ground building, install fencing and a gravel drive to allow for parking. The proposed building is 38 feet from the wetland and the fence is at 9 feet from the wetland. Mr. Bows said that they are aware of the 50' No Touch buffer zone, but explained that an exception is made in the Town's Wetland By-law for utilities. Their intent is not to ignore the standard, but perhaps not meet the same setbacks as for a single family home.

Mr. Bows went on to say that they will try to improve the area by removing leaf litter/invasive species and planting a 2,000 sq.ft. mitigation area for which they seek suggestions from the Commission regarding types of plantings. A silt sock is proposed at the limit of work and CMA intends to donate the remaining land through a conservation restriction or deed to the Town. At this time, Mr. Bows invited feedback from the Commission.

Mr. Clemons commented that as part of the vegetation plan, a proposal was made to plant six Atlantic White Cedars as a buffer along the fence. He was of the opinion that because they're an obligate wetland species, it was not in their best interest to plant them in the upland

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area as depicted, but perhaps in the mitigation area off the street. Also, Mr. Clemons asked about the nature and maintenance of the surface material between the front of the site and the fence. Mr. Saccone replied that stone was proposed inside the fence, but nothing was proposed on the outside. Mr. Clemons suggested that a 5' strip also be maintained outside the fence so as to not allow invasive species such as Poison Ivy or Bittersweet to take hold.

Lastly, Mr. Clemons commented that the wetland known as Little Cedar Swamp, is an extremely important flood control area between Route 58 and several side roads that receives storm water runoff from Shaw's parking lot, the Middle School and all the homes and business's off of Liberty Street. There is a single surface stream outlet from this overall area into Indian Head Brook that is locally known as Barker's Brook. The parcel is at the northern extremity of this area and in order to properly manage the function of the wetland, not just storm water, but wildlife habitat, he wondered how CMA was considering conveying the property to the Town. Mr. Bows answered that there is a separate permitting process through the Zoning Board of Appeals where it was discussed and decided that subdividing is the safest and best alternative. Mr. Clemons agreed and said that deeding it to the Town under the care and custody of Conservation would be most preferable to the Commission as a Conservation Restriction would put an undue layer of oversight on the property.

In conclusion, Mr. Bows said that he would talk to the botanist about the Atlantic White Cedar plantings and take all the preceding comments into consideration before filing a formal Notice of Intent.

6:50 PM Appointment with Annmarie Bouzan, Recreation Commission & Emma Mousette, Beach Director regarding erosion control at Cranberry Cove beachfront area

Mr. Clemons initiated the discussion by updating the Commission about a recent letter (dated 6-1-17) from the Marybeth MacKay, Director of Recreation regarding replacing some sand at Cranberry Cove to address a tripping hazard around exposed tree roots and the top of the tight tank. He had drafted a memo (dated 6/5/17) in response (and spoken with Annmarie and Emma personally) that suggested putting more sand in those areas may not be the best solution as sand is not inherently stable. As a solution, Mr. Clemons prepared a sketch to construct a small retaining wall around the tree roots which would be a simple and inexpensive alternative.

Ms. Bouzan reported that she had met with Rob O'Brien at the cove. Mr. O'Brien is a firefighter and expressed concern that the retaining wall might interfere with emergency vehicles. Also, because time is of the essence, Ms. Bouzan suggested bringing sand up from under the shoreline to cover the tree roots and the septic cover. She added that opening day is June 21st and they would like to open the beach with as much security as possible.

Mr. Clemons said he would like to speak with Rob O'Brien and Jerry Thompson about it as he was struggling to see why the retaining wall would interfere with an emergency vehicle from getting to the water. Also, excavating sand from the water is a regulatory process that would bring permitting to a much different level. Ms. LePorte commented that bringing in coarse sand into a retaining area would be the best scenario because it would discourage the tree roots from spreading.

In conclusion, Mr. Clemons said that the plan was a draft and first attempt at trying to do something, however, since it wasn't acted on, he asked for their views. Ms. Mousette was of the opinion that the retaining wall would be detrimental in an emergency situation. Mr. Clemons

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said that he and Ms. Muncy will be there tomorrow and suggested placing stakes so that she and Ms. Bouzan can envision the length of the wall and get a clearer idea of what's being proposed.

Discussions

Reorganization – tabled until the next meeting

Request for a Certificate of Compliance for 357 Phillips Street, Map 57, Lot 18 for Dennis Dunphy (DEP #SE175-351)

Mr. Clemons said that according to a memo from David Gould (former agent) in the file (dated 5/18/01), the project was in substantial compliance and just required a follow up inspection. Ms. Muncy was there today and took pictures, but was not able to confirm the retaining wall and plantings due to an abundance of overgrowth. The property is for sale and is not occupied.

Motion to deny pending a site inspection and further review: Sharon LePorte

Second: Paul Andruk

Vote: 3-0-0

Old Business/New Business

Positive Determination of Applicability (denial) of the boundary of a wetland resource area at 144 Indian Head Street, Map 47, Lot 0-1-2AH for Keith D. Boyle – **signed**

Certificate of Compliance for 180 Indian Head Street, Map 47, Lot 3, part of Lot 14 for Michelle M. & Donald H. Ellis, Jr. (DEP #SE175-0664) – **signed**

WB Mason/Invoice – **signed**

Adrian Name Plates/Invoice – **signed**

Harry B. Harding & Son/Invoice – **signed**

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:45 PM: Paul Andruk

Second: Sharon LePorte

Vote: 3-0-0