

**HANSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF APRIL 23rd, 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 Philip Clemons, Chairman, in Meeting Room A at the Town Hall.

Present: Philip Clemons, Chairman
Paul Andruk, Vice Chairman
Sharon LePorte, Member
William Woodward, Member
Michael DeVeuve, Clerk

Also Present: Michèle Grenier, Conservation Agent
Rebecca Nehiley, Administrative Assistant

Appointments

7:00 PM Appointment with Mr. James Fitzgerald of Environmental Partners to discuss the Maquan Street TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) as it relates to Conservation

Mr. Jim Fitzgerald and Mr. Ryan Paul of Environmental Partners (EP) attended this meeting to update the Commission on the design of the Maquan Street TIP project and one area in particular. Mr. Fitzgerald said that the project is at the 25% design phase. Because the State is paying for the project, EP is currently coordinating with MA DOT. One aspect of the project that was looked favorably upon was a shared use path. The shared use path was approved by the Selectmen at a previous public meeting and included an approximate 200' boardwalk along Maquan Pond at a pinch point in the roadway. This design was preferred by the town to a retaining wall because it was less impactful and aesthetically pleasing, although it required slightly more maintenance.

Mr. Fitzgerald said that the State was not in favor of the boardwalk. Because it would require a state bridge designation, it would involve a difficult, structural review process. Furthermore, it would cost about \$100,000 and beyond that would require costly, ongoing inspections. Environmental Partners is encouraging the Town to go with the retaining wall. Mr. Fitzgerald presented a plan that depicted the proposed roadway which was shifted up and away from the resource area and a 5' retaining wall made of manufactured stone with limited footings to minimize impact. Mr. Clemons asked if any mitigation was proposed for the potential disturbance. Mr. Paul answered that they would replicate for any loss or encroachment into the wetlands.

In conclusion, Mr. Fitzgerald reported that the other area in question is in the vicinity of Pine Grove Avenue, which often floods because of high ground water. The idea is to raise the elevation of the roadway by about a foot and half and install an overflow pipe and deep sump catch basins with separator hoods to reduce the flooding.

Public Hearings

7:00 PM Notice of Intent for the installation of an in-ground swimming pool within 100 feet of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland at 244 Gray Lane, Map 92, Lot 3-4 for Michael & Laurie Hurley represented by Webby Engineering, Inc. (DEP#SE175-0706) (New Hearing)

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Mr. DeVeuve read the Public Hearing Notice and the abutters were verified. Mr. Joseph Webby, Jr. made the presentation for an in-ground swimming pool with a plan dated 3/6/19. The adjacent resource area was delineated by Brook Munro in June of 2018 which was an isolated vegetated wetland. Although the pool was 70' from the IVW and was surrounded by a fence, erosion control was proposed as a precaution. Ms. Grenier commented that the wetland is down slope and outside the fenced backyard and the pool is proposed in a previously disturbed area. No abutters were present.

Motion to approve and issue an Order of Conditions for the project: Sharon LePorte

Second: Bill Woodward

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion to close the Public Hearing: Michael DeVeuve

Second: Paul Andruk

Vote: 5-0-0

7:00 PM Notice of Intent for the construction of a 1/182.6 kw Solar Photovoltaic (PV) installation project within 100 feet of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland at County Road, Map 74, Lots 7 & 8 for County Road Partners, LLC represented by AMEC Massachusetts Inc., (DEP #SE175-07__) (**New Hearing**)

Mr. DeVeuve read the Public Hearing Notice and the abutters were verified. Richard Niles, Project Manager and Emily Gardner, an Environmental Scientist of AMEC Massachusetts, Inc. made the presentation for the proposed solar farm. Mr. Niles reported that both parcels of land encompass 56.89 acres and contain extensive Bordering Vegetated Wetlands that are located to the east and to the west of the project. The wetlands were flagged on 3/5/18 by Brad Holmes, PWS of Environmental Consulting & Restoration, LLC. Several stone walls follow the boundary of the property.

Mr. Niles went on to say that the proposed solar panel arrays are outside of the 50' no disturb zone. However, primarily because of tree clearing and installation of stormwater best management practices, 1.64 acres of the 100' buffer zone will be impacted. Because the project had not been favorably received through the zoning process, the size of the array was reduced and they decided to abide by the 100' forested buffer setback instead of requesting a waiver. The access is off of County Road and meets the requirements of the fire department in terms of width for fire apparatus. An 8' high security fence is proposed around the panels and the electrical equipment. Erosion control (compost socks) will be installed along down-gradient limits of work.

Under a Determination of Applicability issued by the Commission in January, they performed four test pits and three soil borings to examine the subsurface of the site. Because groundwater was high, it made the geo-technical design challenging. Mr. Niles said that they're not planning on doing any grading. Sand filter basins and a gravel roadway will provide infiltration. A Filtrexx Siltsoxx® is proposed at a slope which eventually becomes a berm to catch the sheet flow of water running downhill. To give some perspective, Mr. Niles commented that the project area represents only 8% of the entire site and they are meeting the stormwater standards to attenuate peak flow rates.

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Ms. Gardner touched upon the tree survey that was taken at the site in March and April of 2019. Transects of the area were used and trees measuring at least 5" in diameter were inventoried. The majority of the trees were White Pine, Red Oak, White Oak and Red Maples. Maybe ½ dozen trees were 20" or greater. Mr. Clemons commented that "looking for solar power is favored, but trees are also favored. If they're lost, what is gained? We need to know the numbers to measure the impact." Mr. Andruk commented that the Red Maple population would grow back very quickly. Mr. Niles answered that they prefer not to stump trees, but a condition could be created for vegetation management in the shade management zone to cut trees once they reach a certain height. Mr. Clemons asked if a Conservation Restriction has been considered as mitigation for the tree clearing. Mr. Niles said that it's not off the table. Mr. Clemons asked for comments from abutters. Those present were:

Mr. Robert Scott, Holmes Street – Asked about the length and depth of the west side detention basin. Mr. Niles said that it was approximately 120' long and quite shallow.

Mrs. Marian Scott, Holmes Street – What kind of effect will the tree cutting have on the absorption of stormwater. Mr. Niles said that the calculations in the stormwater report account for recharge.

Mrs. Betty O'Sullivan, County Road – Was concerned that the already significant ponding in her yard will get worse.

Mr. Joe O'Sullivan, County Road – Was concerned with runoff and a rising water table. He was of the opinion that the "retention basin will saturate incredibly fast because it's sitting on clay." Mr. Niles replied that an Operation & Maintenance Plan has been developed and the basins will be monitored in perpetuity.

Mr. Joe Bongarzone, County Road – Was concerned about the use of herbicides as his well is 50' from the roadway. Ms. Grenier said that the use of synthetic herbicides or pesticides would be prohibited. Mr. Niles added that they don't usually see a need for them.

Mr. Dave Beauvais, Holmes Street - During his walks he has noticed often considerable groundwater. He had a question about the use of the Filtrexx Siltsoxx®. Mr. Niles answered that it's used for erosion control initially but then becomes a permanent feature. Mr. Beauvais commented that they've done a great job to accommodate the hydrology of the site.

Motion to continue the hearing to May 14, 2019 at 7:00 PM: Sharon LePorte

Second: Paul Andruk

Vote: 5-0-0

Minutes

Motion to approve Minutes of March 26, 2019: Sharon LePorte

Second: Paul Andruk

Vote: 5-0-0

Old Business/New Business

Express Newspapers/Invoice – **signed**

WB Mason, Inc./Invoice – **signed**

Mileage Reimbursement/Invoice – **signed**

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Discussions

Liberty Woods

Ms. Grenier reported that she had provided comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The plan is deficient of drainage design, did not depict box culverts for two crossings and is incomplete. She suggested to the ZBA Chairman that the deficiencies be corrected.

Enforcement Order - Franklin Street

Ms. Grenier reported that she had issued an enforcement order for a wetland violation and requested that they contact the Commission. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:30 PM: Sharon LePorte

Second: Paul Andruk

Vote: 5-0-0