

**HANSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2021
HANSON MIDDLE SCHOOL, 111 LIBERTY STREET, HANSON, MA 02341**

Called to Order at 7:00 pm under M.G.L. c131, §40 and the Hanson By-Law 3-13, §5 and Rules and Regulations by Phil Clemons, Chairman, Hanson Middle School Auditorium, Hanson, MA

Present: Phil Clemons, Chairman
Sharon LePorte, Vice Chairman
David Mansfield, Clerk
Thomas Roffey, Jr., Member
Ryan Morrison, Associate Member
Frank Schellenger, Agent
Lan Woodward, Administrative Assistant

Also Present: Steven Thompson and Alison Costa, Lakeside Road
Jean Runey, Ocean Avenue
Dominic Meringolo, Solitude Lake Management. LLC

Minutes

April 7, 2021

Motion to approve the minutes of April 7, 2021 by: David Mansfield

Second: Sharon LePorte

Vote: 4-0-0

Public Hearings

7:00 PM Continued Notice of Intent to construct a residential subdivision roadway partially within the 100' setback to a bordering vegetated wetland at 0 County Road, Map 74, Lot 7&8, for Ellis Building & Development Corp., represented by County Road Partners, LLC, 20 Stearns Road, Scituate, MA 02066. (DEP# SE175-0730)

Motion to continue hearing until May 5, 2021 at 7:00 PM by: David Mansfield

Second: Sharon LePorte

Vote: 3-0-0

*Member Thomas Roffey, Jr., recused himself from the hearing.

7:30 PM Continued Notice of Intent to demolish existing house and commercial building and construct two 3-story mixed residential/commercial buildings; building one with 3 commercial units, 14 one-bedroom, 12 two-bedroom units, building two with 3 commercial units, 10 one-bedroom, 3 one+ bedroom, 10 two-bedroom units with associated site improvements and signage at 965&999 Main Street, Map 42, Lot 9&10 for Stephen Egan, Egan Development LLC, represented by Crowell Engineering. (DEP# SE175-0731)

Motion to continue hearing until May 19, 2021 at 7:30 PM by: Sharon LePorte

Second: David Mansfield

Vote: 4-0-0

8:00 PM Notice of Intent to construct a 5X4 Chicken Coop with a 4X8 Chicken Run within the 100' buffer zone to Spring Brook and within the 50' buffer zone to a bordering vegetated wetland with proposed mitigation at 137 Lakeside Road, Map 79, Lot 25, for Steven Thompson. (DEP# SE175-0732)

Mr. Mansfield read the Public Hearing Notice and abutters were verified.

Mr. Thompson and Ms. Costa were present to discuss plans for 5X4 Chicken Coop and 4X8 Chicken Run. There is mitigation planting, and the coop will be raised. When the run is installed, the chickens will be able to go under the coop for shade. The planting area will be adjacent to the run and coop.

Chair Clemons asked what the surface of ground is where the coop and run would go.

Mr. Thompson said it is bare soil, there was a lot of cleanup of glass and debris from the previous owner. There is some grass, greenbriars, skunk cabbage that are growing closer to the creek area.

Agent Schellenger visited the site. He stated that the previous owner had an Order of Conditions with Conservation to tear down the old house and construct new. As part of the Order, the house was allowed to be built within the 50' buffer. One of the things needed would be a variance to get the coop and run within the 50' buffer zone. Since the ground is bare, mitigation proposed is up against the wetland line, and the commission could suggest what plantings. Mr. Thompson should place erosion control where work is going to be done. Since it is within 100' riparian zone, MassDEP stated that applicant shall demonstrate that the restoration or mitigation has been successfully completed for at least two growing seasons. The issuing authority shall include a continuing condition in the Certificate of Compliance prohibiting further alteration within the restoration or mitigation area, except as may be required to maintain the area in its restored or mitigated condition.

Chair Clemons notified applicants to work with staff to make a plan for specific plantings.

Motion to allow variance for work within 50' buffer zone by: David Mansfield

Second: Sharon LePorte

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion to approve an Order of Conditions subject to Special Conditions by: TJ Roffey, Jr.

Second: David Mansfield

Vote: Vote 4-0-0

Motion to close hearing by: Sharon LePorte

Second: David Mansfield

Vote: 4-0-0

8:15 PM Continued PM Notice of Intent to continue an integrated Aquatic Plant Management Program at Monponsett Ponds which encompasses two separate basins, East Lake and West lake, to monitor, assess, and implement measures for control of non-native/nuisance aquatic vegetation, specifically with the use of USEPA/State registered aquatic herbicides/algaecides for Charlie Seelig, Town of Halifax – Board of Selectmen, Property Owner: Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Great Pond), Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), represented by Solitude Lake Management, LLC, 590 Lake Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545.

Dominic Meringolo, Solitude Lake Management, LLC, presented the plan to the Commission. He stated that this is an ongoing program to continue a management plan with the use of USEPA/State registered aquatic herbicides/algaecides. A survey of the pond is done, and year end reports are distributed.

Mr. Meringolo also stated that there is a mussel species that requires Solitude to maintain Natural Heritage's treatment plan with monitoring. A copy of the plan will be forwarded to the commission. The Solitude staff is licensed and a MassDEP permit is obtained. Treatment will start May-July. The herbicides decay so there is no persistent activity, they all break down.

Jean Runey, Ocean Avenue - She would like to thank Solitude for all that they are doing with the algae. She is excited about the plans, she is on the West Lake side and would be happy when they do that side.

Mr. Meringolo notified Ms. Runey that the town is aware, they have not put together a program yet, the idea would be to manage invasive species. They have a contract to do the survey, included will be recommendations.

Agent Schellenger stated that one of the things that Natural Heritage stressed regarding endangered mussels, is that they recommended doing a survey before treatment. Who is doing the survey?

Mr. Meringolo notified the Commission that they have done the required survey, which has been completed regularly.

Agent Schellenger asked who would be responsible for payment?

Mr. Meringolo stated the Town of Halifax would be responsible for billing and payment to Solitude.

Agent Schellenger asked if there was Hydrilla on the West Lake side? He wanted to check because Diquat is not a good thing to use when Hydrilla is present.

Mr. Meringolo said there is not.

Agent Schellenger added that he would be adding the Natural Heritage conditions to the Order of Conditions verbatim.

Mr. Meringolo notified the Commission that the Town of Halifax approved the Order of Conditions.

Motion to approve Order of Conditions subject to Natural Heritage Conditions by: Sharon LePorte

Second: David Mansfield

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion to close hearing by: TJ Roffey, Jr.

Second: David Mansfield

Vote: 4-0-0

Appointments - (None)

Discussions

Budget Update for FY2022

Conservation Commission reviewed the FY22 Hanson Override Calculation Worksheet as of 04.06.21. Agent Schellenger attended the FY22 Proposition 2 ½ Override Public Forum Meeting 04.20.21. If it does not pass, the department loss would be \$4,000.00 that would have to come out of expenses, Wetland Fees could be used.

Oldham Pond

The Town of Hanson received an invoice from the Town of Pembroke dated 08.27.20 requesting one fifth contribution towards Oldham Pond Treatment for \$9,960.00. In the past, it was paid through Oldham Pond Article from STM 2012. The balance in that account is \$5,440.00 as of 03.16.21. Town Administrator, John Stanbrook, asked the Conservation office to come up with ideas of how to pay the balance of the current invoice.

Motion to make available \$4,520.00 from the Wetlands Revolving Expense Account and remaining \$5,440.00 balance from Oldham Pond Article 11 STM Spring 2012 for Town of Pembroke Oldham Pond Treatment invoice by: TJ Roffey, Jr.

Second: David Mansfield

Vote: 4-0-0

MassDEP NRD Grant Opportunity Update

Chair Clemons and Mr. Morrison conducted a site visit to Nathaniel Thomas Mill regarding eel ladder assessment grant opportunity. Chair Clemons notified the Commission that he spoke with Brad Chase, MA Division of Marine Fisheries, and invited him to do a site visit.

USDA Draft Update

No update as of this meeting.

Crosswalk Repair Update

Town Planner, Deb Pettey, submitted a conceptual design for Commission review until engineer drawings are received. Agent Schellenger recommended a Request for Determination of Applicability to be filed. The process applies to most work in the street layout as long as adequate erosion control practices are maintained.

Smitty's Bog Services Agreement Update

Anderson Survey Updated Services Agreement was submitted to the Town Administrator for approval/signature. It is not able to be signed at this time, per Board of Selectmen Office, as it could jeopardize the Town's position in ongoing litigation with the abutters. Chair Clemons would like to communicate further about the Conservation Commission's intentions, simply making the case of what we would like to do for a management plan. Discussion to be continued. Request for office to update Mr. Anderson.

Eagle Scout Project Update(s)

Site visit on 04.14.21 was completed by Mr. Mansfield and Mr. Roffey with TJ Woodward, Scout Master, and Leaders. Mr. Woodward has mapped out a trail, managed to stay away from rivers edge and has arranged for parking lot grading. He also has a plan for a kiosk.

Chair Clemons requested a plan for the parking lot and kiosk, as part of the project would be to provide sketches with intended dimensions before it starts.

Mr. Mansfield will reach out to Mr. Woodward for sketch. He stated that Mr. Woodward would like to start the 1st of May on the trail work; the parking lot does not currently have a timeline.

Rocky Run Trail Clean Up Reminder-April 24, 2021

Rocky Run Trail Clean up Saturday 9:30am-12:00pm; meeting place will be Luddam's Ford Park in Hanover.

Property Management Update

485 Winter Street: current MLS listing states it is off the market. Discussion on having the office reach out to realtor to notify the interest if anything changes.

Motion for Conservation Commission Staff to have simple communication regarding continued interest in 485 Winter Street with the realtor should any changes occur with sale by: TJ Roffey, Jr.

Second: David Mansfield

Vote: 4-0-0

Town Forest: Mr. Mansfield would like to have 3 bridges constructed. Chair Clemons will discuss with Eagle Scout, Zev Andruk. Mr. Mansfield will take some measurements, create sketches.

Intern: Discussion regarding Conservation Intern for 8 weeks. The past Intern produced trail maps and assisted with turtle survey. Commission to draft list of projects/tasks. Ms. LePorte stated we could notify the schools of our search as well.

Motion to seek Summer Conservation Intern for purposes stated by: David Mansfield

Second: Sharon LePorte

Vote: 4-0-0

Phragmites Control at Camp Kiwanee: Agent Schellenger stated that we received funds at Town Meeting to do phragmites control and asked if this was still needed.

Chair Clemons requested that the office contact Solitude Lake Management to address this, find out cost, availability and at a future meeting we could make a firm plan to have completed. Phragmites Control was completed about 5 years ago at Camp Kiwanee, but a lot of the Phragmites has come back.

Old Business/New Business

Invoice for Public Hearing Notice (Hanson Express) for 137 Lakeside Road, Notice of Intent - Reviewed

Invoice for Appraisal (Realworth Appraising & Consulting) for Hawks Avenue, Appraisal Report - Reviewed

Invoice for Mileage Reimbursement (Agent) - Reviewed

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:54 PM by: David Mansfield

Second: TJ Woodward

Vote: 4-0-0

Next Meeting: May 5, 2021 at Hanson Middle School Auditorium 7:00 pm