

Weston Conservation Commission (WCC) - Public Meeting Minutes
November 9th, 2021
Approved: November 30th, 2021

Members Participating: Joe Berman (Chair), Rees Tullos, Ellen Freeman Roth, Josh Feinblum, Alison Barlow

Members Absent: Rebecca Loveys, Cynthia Chapra

Conservation Staff: Jordan McCarron

Notes: Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, which includes an extension of Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting was held via an online meeting platform (Zoom). No in-person attendance of members of the public was available.

Joe Berman (Chair) opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with an opportunity for public comment. Hearing none, the following hearings and meetings were taken up in order:

Notice of Intent: 25 Hubbard Road, 337-1431; S. Kevorkian

Georgia Argypole, owner and applicant, introduced the project, which includes the demolition and removal of the existing septic system components, removal and replacement of existing unsuitable soils limits, and construction of a new soil absorption system with associated site improvements.

Peter Bemis, Design Engineering Consultants, Inc., provided a more detailed overview. Approximately 70 linear feet of 5-foot high 40 mil impermeable barrier is proposed between the new leaching field and resource area. The bottom of the barrier will be set at elevation 208.5 and extend to elevation 213.5. The edge of the wetland is located at elevation 204. Site improvements will include the restoration of the existing patio and lawn area. All of the related work will occur within the 100-foot buffer zone of the Bordering Vegetated Wetland. At its closest point, the leaching field will be a distance of 50 feet from the BVW and the impermeable barrier 38 feet from the BVW; the applicant received a variance from the Weston Board of Health.

A 9-inch straw wattle with silt fence is proposed along the perimeter of work for sedimentation and erosion control. Because the erosion control line approximately follows the existing tree line, a small amount of the erosion control extends into the 25 foot No Disturb Zone.

Rees Tulloss relayed the Commission's expectation that the wooded areas of the property remain untouched. Susan McGinty, 15 Hubbard Rd, requested more information about the stormwater impacts from the project. Mr. Bemis explained that no new impervious surface will be created as part of the project and thus, there will be no substantial difference between pre and post-development hydrology.

A motion to close the Notice of Intent hearing for 25 Hubbard Rd, DEP 337-1431, and issue an Order of Conditions, contingent on the issuance of a file number and no substantive comments from the DEP, was made by Ellen Freeman Roth; seconded by Josh Feinblum. Roll call vote 5-0.

Notice of Intent: 150 Sherburn Circle, 337-1430; S. Barfield

Peter Bemis, Design Engineering Consultants, Inc., presented on behalf of the applicant and provided an overview of the project, which involves the construction of two separate additions to this single-family house. Work will include the installation of a stormwater management system, utilities and associated site work.

The smaller 91 SF addition is proposed at the back of the southern portion of the house in the location of an existing concrete pad/patio. The larger 673 SF addition is proposed off the back of the northern portion of the house located in a grass area. A 24" pine and 24" oak are proposed for removal within the 100-foot Buffer Zone. The proposed work also includes installation of infiltration chambers to collect roof drains from the additions. Disturbed lawn areas will be restored to existing conditions. A portion of the work will occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and the outer 200-foot Riverfront Area associated with Bogle Brook.

A 12-inch compost sock with silt fence is proposed along the downstream perimeter of work for sedimentation and erosion control. The construction entrance apron is proposed within the 100-year floodplain and will require excavation and installation of crushed stone to provide a level drive access for construction vehicles.

While no compensatory flood storage is required within the 100-Year Floodplain, Mr. Bemis indicated that all grades within the 100-year floodplain area would be restored to existing elevations and conditions.

To meet the Redevelopment Standards within Riverfront Area, Mr. Bemis acknowledged that he would need to provide mitigation for 673 SF of new impervious area; to do this, Mr. Bemis proposed 12 native shrubs within the existing tree line limits.

A motion to close the Notice of Intent hearing for 150 Sherburn Circle, DEP 337-14XX, and issue an Order of Conditions, contingent on the issuance of a file number and no substantive comments from the DEP was made by Ellen Freeman Roth; seconded by Rees Tulloss. Roll call vote 5-0.

Eagle Scout Proposal: Beautification of Meriam Barn, Merriam Street

Eagle Scout candidate Holden Langenhagen presented a proposal to clear away vegetation, create an approximately 100' access path, and install interpretive signage at the old Merriam Barn historic site at the College Pond Conservation Land off Merriam Street.

Mr. Langenhagen explained that the access path would join existing trails maintained by the Weston Forest and Trail Association (WFTA) and that the WFTA has agreed to maintain this new section. The Historic Commission, Scout Council, and WFTA have expressed support for the project. A work day for the project is scheduled for Saturday, November 20th.

Mr. Tulloss suggested that Mr. Langenhagen have someone from the WFTA or the Conservation Commission participate in the work day to educate he and his fellow Scouts on the plant species present at the site and help consult on the exact location of the access path, disposal of vegetation, etc.

A motion to approve the improvements to the Merriam Barn historic site as part of Holden Langenhagen's Eagle Scout Proposal was made by Rees Tulloss; seconded by Ellen Freeman Roth. Roll call vote 5-0.

Cont. Notice of Intent: Shadyhill and Ledgewood Drainage Project, 337-1425; Weston Department of Public Works

Steve Fogg, Weston Town Engineer, provided a brief overview of the project which involves the repair and replacement of the existing storm drainage system on and around Shady Hill and Ledgewood Roads. A portion of the proposed work is located within Bordering Vegetated Wetland, Bank, and associated 100-foot Buffer Zones.

Larry Rusiecki, Wright-Pierce, and Chuck Caron, Caron Environmental Consulting, provided a detailed overview of their team's responses and adjustments to the project plans based on previous comments from

the Conservation Commission and Conservation Staff. Conservation staff had an opportunity to review these responses before the meeting, and the Commission had no further comments or questions.

Construction means and methods will be developed by the selected contractor and all work will be reviewed in the field by Steve Fogg, Jordan McCarron, and a full-time compliance monitor assigned to the project by the Town.

To address questions about pipe buoyancy, Mr. Rusiecki updated the plans to indicate areas where a geotextile ballast-filled bag will be placed on top of the new pipe in areas of high groundwater.

The updated plans have omitted two wetland flags, WF D9-WF D8, on the property of 24 Shadyhill Rd, by request of the owner. While omitting those two flags does not appear to impact this specific project, Mr. McCarron expressed concern that future work in the area take those two wetland flags into account. The Commission agreed that a note could be included in the Findings for this Order of Conditions referencing those two flags.

Finally, Mr. Rusiecki agreed to update the plans to clearly identify all tree removal within the project limits, specifically on page C-7 in the area behind 24-32 Shadyhill Rd.

A motion to retain the services of a qualified wetland consultant, at the expense of the applicant, for review on the Shadyhill/Ledgewood Roads Drainage Project, DEP 337-1425, through Chapter 44 Sec 53G, was made by Josh Feinblum; seconded by Rees Tulloss. Roll call vote 5-0.

A motion to close the Notice of Intent hearing for the Shadyhill/Ledgewood Roads Drainage Project, DEP 337-1425, and issue an Order of Conditions, was made by Rees Tulloss; seconded by Ellen Freeman Roth. Roll call vote 5-0.

Cont. Notice of Intent: Pedestrian Bridge over the Charles River, 337-1422; Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

Mr. McCarron explained that Conservation Staff had drafted an Order of Conditions, the Commission and the applicant had reviewed the draft permit and were comfortable with the Conditions, and that no additional information or discussion was expected or needed on the project.

Mr. Tulloss requested that “Dewatering” be added to Special Condition 22 (B) and that the Commission be notified before any Dewatering commences for the propose of inspection and oversight of the Dewatering process.

A motion to close the Notice of Intent hearing for the Pedestrian Bridge over the Charles River, DEP 337-1422, and issue an Order of Conditions was made by Josh Feinblum; seconded by Rees Tulloss. Roll call vote 5-0.

Trail Maintenance Proposal at Hubbard Woods; Weston Conservation Department and Weston Forest & Trails Association

Mr. Tulloss and Mr. McCarron provided an overview of a proposal to relocate a section of wet trail at Hubbard Woods, adjacent to the trailhead at Old Colony and Columbine Roads, to higher ground as well as install a stepping-stone bridge. This project is permitted through an Order of Conditions, DEP File 337-1016, which requires notification and approval by the Commission.

A motion to approve the trail re-route and stepping-stone bridge proposal for the Stewardship Saturday work event on 11/20/21 at Hubbard Woods Conservation Area per DEP File 337-1016 was made by Rees Tulloss; seconded by Ellen Freeman Roth. Roll call vote 5-0.

The following administrative matters were taken up, in order, at various times throughout the meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes from 10-26-21 was made by Josh Feinblum; seconded by Rees Tulloss. Roll call vote 4-0.

A motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for the Southside Drainage Project, Phase II, DEP File 337-1347 was made by Josh Feinblum; seconded by Ellen Freeman Roth. Roll call vote 5-0.

Mr. Berman updated the Commission on the withdrawal of the 518 South Ave 40B project, DEP 332-1383.

Mr. McCarron and Alison Barlow provided a brief update on the Wetlands Bylaw Working Group; the Group is currently debating the merits of pursuing a standard By-law with regulations that codify the Commission's existing policies. Josh Feinblum voiced support for this approach, indicating that a By-law with regulations would make him more comfortable when enforcing the Commission's 25-foot No Disturb Policy.

Finally, the Commission discussed briefly an in-person gathering for the Commission and their families.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.