

**ACTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
April 20, 2016
7:15 PM
TOWN HALL - 472 MAIN STREET
ROOM 204**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Terry Maitland, William Froberg, Tom Arnold, Amy Green, Paula Goodwin

NATURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR & RECORDING SECRETARY: Tom Tidman

VISITORS: Janet Adachi, David Albrecht

7:15 Notice of Intent: 127 Stow Street continued from March 16, 2016 meeting.

Hearing began at 7:25 PM. Dave Albrecht, from Borrego Solar, presented, with responses to Commission questions from the hearing originally opened on March 16. He noted that the vernal pool assessment had been complete and the report submitted to the Commission. There will be 8 feet of clearing on either side of the center line for wires. Any solar panels originally shown within the 75 foot setback have been relocated to areas outside the 75 foot setback. The first 80 to 100 feet of roadway will be improved.

The Planning Board has granted a variance to allow utilities to be installed overhead versus underground, as proscribed in the Planning rules and regulations. DEP still hasn't resolved stormwater requirements, and the policy has not been made public. He pointed out that post-development runoff is approximately 3 percent greater than pre-development. The solar array is designed to produce 2.8 megawatts of electricity.

Ms. Goodwin asked how close the vernal pool is to the proposed driveway improvement area and Mr. Albrecht said about 20 feet. All heavy equipment will access the site through the Stow side of the site. Ms. Green asked how many poles would be in wetlands, and Mr. Albrecht said only one pole will be installed within wetlands, and all other poles would be accessed without crossing wetlands. The pole would be set with a track-mounted auger. Using swamp mats is an option. He pointed out further that the first 2 poles in from Stow Road are owned by Eversource. The remainder of the poles are owned by Borrego Solar. Mr. Froberg asked if he is "comfortable not going any closer to the vernal pool?" Mr. Albrecht assured him he would be and the road was being improved and would remain gravel. He also pointed out that the construction sequence has been added to the plans dated 4/4/2016 in response to the Stow Planning Board.

Ms. Goodwin asked about tree stump removal. Mr. Albrecht said stumps within the limit of the fence would be removed but those outside the fence would be left. In addition, the old sawmill, which is within the Acton bounds, would remain. Phase 1 and 2 Environmental Assessments have been completed. Ms. Goodwin asked further what would keep the contractor contained within the work area. Mr. Albrecht said that orange safety fencing could be added to either side of the cleared area.

Ms. Goodwin inquired about potential wildlife impacts, specifically if Mr. Albrecht could share any information about issues with small/medium sized animals such as rabbits, woodchucks and skunks becoming trapped within the solar array field by crawling under the 6 inch space between the fence and ground and being harmed or causing problems that needed to be addressed. The Commission was assured that in Borrego Solar's experience building many arrays, that there have been no such impacts to wildlife or problems caused by wildlife and that he feels confident of the same for this project.

Decision: Mr. Maitland moved to issue a Standard Order of Conditions with the following Special Conditions:

1. No work on the overhead utility line will occur during the invertebrate/vernal pool migration season, March 15 to May 15.
2. No road work will be conducted closer to wetlands than existing conditions.
3. Orange safety fence will be placed along the pole line from flag B13 to C48, across the wetlands section.
4. The Environmental Monitor will be present during utility pole installation from access at Stow Street to the installation in the wetlands. The Monitor will report weekly to Natural Resources and report anomalies.

Mr. Arnold seconded the motion, and the Commission voted 4 aye, 1 nay, to approve the motion.

8:20 Notice of Intent: 36 Mohegan Road

Notice of Intent filed by George Procter for the repair of a septic system on 36 Mohegan Road, (town atlas plate D2, parcel 157) located within the buffer zone of wetlands associated with Grassy Pond Brook.

Wendy Diotalevi, of DC & Daughter, presented for the applicant. She noted that the existing system is approximately 50 feet away from Grassy Pond Brook, in zone 3 area. The new system would be installed in approximately the same area, using a drip irrigation system. They have encountered a Peat Layer, 7 feet below the surface. The irrigation will be integrated with a 'microfast' system, which uses both aerobic and anaerobic bacteria within the tank. The system must be inspected annually. The Board of Health (BoH) approved this system with variances on the following three requirements:

1. Field must be at least 100 feet away from wetlands
2. The septic field for a 4 bedroom house must be at least 800 square feet
3. The septic field must be 6 feet above groundwater

The use of pressure dosing and nitrogen reduction are the two reasons the BoH approved the system and it's location.

Decision: Mr. Froberg moved to issue a Standard Order of Conditions, Mr. Arnold seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

8:00 Notice of Intent: 176 Central Street

This filing has been withdrawn, subsequent to the approval for purchase of the property by the Town of Acton for Open Space and Recreation purposes at the April 4 Town Meeting. (Vote taken April 5.) A Conservation Restriction will be applied to the property upon completion of purchase.

Minutes:

March 16, 2016, reviewed by AM, AG

Ms. Green moved to accept the minutes, Ms. Goodwin seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

April 6, 2016, pending

Meeting adjourned: 9:05 PM



Terry Maitland
Chairperson

**ACTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Amended AGENDA
April 20, 2016
7:15 PM
TOWN HALL - 472 MAIN STREET
ROOM 204**

7:15 Notice of Intent: 127 Stow Street continuance

7: 30 Notice of Intent: 36 Mohegan Road

Notice of Intent filed by George Procter for the repair of a septic system on 36 Mohegan Road, (*town atlas plate D2, parcel 157*) located within the buffer zone of wetlands associated with Grassy Pond Brook.

8:00 Notice of Intent: 176 Central Street: continued to this date;

Request for withdrawal of filing.

Minutes:

March 16, 2016, reviewed by AM, AG

April 6, 2016, pending

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<input type="checkbox"/> 012 - 127 Stow St NOI Vernal Pool	naturaires	04/14/16	1 MB	
<input type="checkbox"/> 013 - 85-1195 127 Stow St DEP File no	naturaires	04/20/16	37 KB	
<input type="checkbox"/> 020 - 36 Mohegan CC Filing	naturaires	04/19/16	791 KB	
<input type="checkbox"/> 021 - MOHEGAN 36 FINAL Perc Rite PG	naturaires	04/19/16	667 KB	
<input type="checkbox"/> 022 - MOHEGAN 36 Approved Perc Rite MicroFast PG	naturaires	04/19/16	2 MB	

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