

Acton Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2020

7:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

Present: Terry Maitland, Amy Green, Jim Colman, Tim McKinnon, Suzanne Flint, Carolyn Kiely, Zywia Chadzynska

Absent: none

Natural Resources Director and recording secretary: Tom Tidman

Note: this meeting was conducted remotely using the virtual meeting application, Zoom.

Regular Business

7:35 Request for Determination: 117 Arlington Street

Mark S. Saganich for a project at 117 Arlington Street, Acton, (town atlas plate E-2, parcel 233). The project is the installation of a new leaching field. Some work will occur within the 100 foot wetland buffer.

Mark Saganich presented the project to the Commission. He noted that the area was very level and he hadn't planned for any erosion control on the site. The Commission raised some concern and he agreed to put hay-waddles along the 75 foot setback on the west side of the proposed leaching field. He also noted that he was awaiting approval from the Board of Health. A Presby system is being installed. He said very little material would be generated during the installation, and there would be no stockpiling. He also said that he had been in touch with his neighbors and they were very pleased that trees won't be removed.

Decision: Mr. McKinnon moved to issue a Negative 3 Determination, meaning the work described in the Request is within the Buffer Zone, as defined in the regulations, but will not alter an Area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent, subject to the following condition: Hay waddles must be installed along the 75 ft setback on the west side of the septic field.

Mr. Colman seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

7:50 Request for Determination: 5 Fernwood Road

Paul Bourget, for a project at 5 Fernwood Road, Acton, MA (town atlas plate G3, parcel 195). The project is the installation of an 8 ft. by 10 ft. shed. Work will occur within the 100 foot wetland buffer zone.

Mr. Bourget, the owner and applicant, presented the project to the Commission. He explained that, because there is a steep slope within his property, he can't move the proposed shed any further from the wetlands. A level pad will be installed on a gravel bed. A small amount of fill will be required to level the area. The shed is to be 8 feet by 10 feet and will be approximately

85 feet from wetlands. The driveway runs between the area of the proposed installation of the shed and the bordering vegetated wetland area.

Decision: Mr. Colman moved to issue a Negative 3 determination, meaning the work described in the Request is within the Buffer Zone, as defined in the regulations, but will not alter an Area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent.

Mr. McKinnon seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

8:05 Request for Determination: 562 Main Street

Applicant is Brewster Conant Jr for property at 562 Main Street (town atlas plate E4, parcel 9-A-1). The project is to remodel the existing house, with several modest additions along the rear of the structure. While all work is outside the 100 foot wetland buffer and the 200 foot Riverfront Area, erosion controls are proposed to protect the resource area during construction.

Bruce Ringwall, from GPR Inc. presented for the applicant, Brewster Conant Jr. He described the project as a renovation of the existing house with several additions to the rear of the existing structure. The area is currently lawn and all work will occur within the existing lawn area. Some grading and vehicle movement will be within the 100 foot buffer, since the distance to the house from the 100 foot buffer is only 12 feet at one point. Silt erosion protection will be installed along the 75 foot buffer. There will be no stockpiling within the 100 foot buffer. It's estimated that excavation and foundation construction will require about two weeks. A dumpster will be on-site for the removal of the demolished section of the house. The silt prevention line will run from the left of the 4 ft. apple to the rock cover on the far right.

Decision: Mr. McKinnon moved to issue a Negative 3 Determination, meaning the work described in the Request is within the Buffer Zone, as defined in the regulations, but will not alter an Area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent, subject to the following conditions:

1. Straw waddles are to begin at the 4 foot apple tree and extend to the rock cover.
2. No construction or storage of construction debris is permitted within the 100 foot buffer; construction vehicles are permitted as required.

Mr. Colman seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

8:15 23 Charter Road

Acton-Boxborough Region School District is the applicant for a project at 23 Charter Road (town atlas plate F3, parcel26). The project involves the installation of a 70 foot tall sports field light pole, and associated foundation, excavation and conduit. Work will occur within the buffer zone of wetlands.

Nathan Ketchel from the engineering firm Garcia, Galuska, DeSousa, Inc. presented the project for ABRSD. The wetlands have already been flagged by Dave Crossman and reviewed by Tom

Tidman. In the project to install lighting for the softball field, one pole will be within the 100 foot buffer. He explained the installation process. A 36 inch diameter auger will be used to dig a 14 foot deep hole which will be back filled with concrete and the pole placed on top of the concrete foundation. A single conduit will be run to the location of the lighting control cabinet which is outside of the buffer zone. Conduit will be 2 inch "pvc" pipe buried 24 inches below grade. Mr. Ketchel gave an indefinite response when asked when construction would occur. The Commission noted that covering the trench each night would be important to prevent reptiles from falling into the hole. They also asked if excavated material would be removed from the site. Mr. Ketchel said the material would be shoveled out and there would be no stockpiling near the waddles or within 100 ft of wetlands. The hearing closed at 8:55 PM.

Decision: Ms. Green moved to issue a Negative 3 Determination, meaning the work described in the Request is within the Buffer Zone, as defined in the regulations, but will not alter an Area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent, subject to the following conditions:

- 1: Erosion control is extended by 10 ft to the east
2. Material removed from auger hole must be stockpiled outside the 100 ft buffer
3. No disturbance to wetland vegetation is allowed during installation.

Mr. McKinnon seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Special Business: None

Consent Items

Request for a Certificate of Compliance: 5 Jackson Drive, 85-741

Decision: Ms. Green moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 5 Jackson Drive, Ms. Kiely seconded the motion, a roll-call vote was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes:

- The Meeting Minutes from the Conservation Commission's February 19, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved by a roll-call vote of 7 to 0.
- The Meeting Minutes from the Conservation Commission's March 4, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved by a roll-call vote of 7 to 0.

At 9:05 p.m., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was approved unanimously by roll-call vote.

Terry Maitland
Chairman

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Request for Determination, WPA Form 1, and associated plans and descriptions for 117 Arlington Street
- Request for Determination, WPA Form 1, with associated sketches and plans, for 5 Fernwood Road
- Request for Determination, WPA Form 1, with associated plans and descriptions for 562 Main Street
- Request for Determination, WPA Form 1, with associated plans and descriptions for 23 Charter Road
- Request for Certificate of Compliance, WPA Form 8A
- Minutes of the March 4, 2020 and February 19, 2020 meetings for approval

These documents may be found here: <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-11739>