

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
October 21, 2020
Virtual Meeting**

Commissioners present: Jim Colman, Amy Green, Tim McKinnon, Zywia Chadzynska, Carolyn Kiely, Suzanne Flint

Absent: Terry Maitland

Natural Resources Director and recorder: Tom Tidman

Zoom Host: Fran Portante

7:15 PM Jim opened the meeting by reading the virtual meeting guidelines.

7:20PM **Request to Amend an Order of Conditions:** 530 Main Street – DEP file # 85-1247
Revision to original submission due to design constraints and pricing

Greg Roy, with Ducharme & Dillis, explained why the applicant, Household Goods of MA, would like to modify the existing OOC. Mr. Roy noted that originally the addition to the existing building would have had a full basement with approximately 4000 square feet of storage space. Developing the basement became cost prohibitive, so other storage space options were investigated. The decision was made to construct a 4000 square foot storage building in the location previously approved under the original Notice of Intent filing for storage containers. The proposed building will sit on the same footprint as the existing storage containers, with a slight decrease in the amount of impervious area, all within the 200' outer riparian zone. Some additional trees will be cut to allow for the shaping necessary for the building construction.

The Commissioners asked if this proposal would change onsite drainage patterns, and Mr. Roy said it would not. Asked if the new slope area would be loamed and seeded, he said it would be, yes. Asked if other locations for the building were considered, Mr. Roy said they were but that this site made the most sense for large vehicle maneuverability. The Commissioners noted that without the 8 storage trailers and the loss of the proposed basement, this will leave Household Goods with less storage space. Mike Coutu, with Household Goods, agreed that this is a reduction in storage space, but it's a major improvement for people (volunteers) accessing goods, and is much better than the existing storage trailers and much less expensive.

Decision: Amy moves to issue an Amended Order of Conditions for DEP File # 85-1247, Tim seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.

7:45 PM **Request for Determination: 110-112 Central Street**
Upgrade of septic system and associated grading within the 100 ft wetlands buffer zone.

Russ Wilson, of R.Wilson Assoc., presented for the owner/applicant Edward O'Brien. Russ noted that the wetlands had been flagged by Dave Burke, and that BVW ran across the rear portion of the lot. This is a two-family dwelling with a failing septic system and is considered a 4-bedroom home. The new design will utilize a Presby System and will be located in the same location as the existing leaching field. The Presby System will be located, at its closest point, 50 feet from wetlands with fill for break-out as close as 30 feet from wetlands. The proposed system, with variances requested, has been approved by the Board of Health.

Decision: Amy moved to issue a negative 3 determination (meaning 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.), Zywia seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.

7:55 PM Request for Determination: 33 Nashoba Road

The owner/applicant Taylor Kurth presented the RDA. Mr. Kurth noted that they have three young children that play in the woods next to their house. The area abuts a wetlands. They would like to install approximately 120 linear feet of chain-link fence along the rear of the property and along the side to enclose the play area. The fence will be installed in a wooded area and the plan is not to remove any trees with the installation. Commissioners asked if the fence could be elevated 6" off the ground, to allow for small animal travel in the buffer zone. Mr. Kurth said that would be fine.

Decision: Amy moved to issue a Negative 3 Determination (see prior decision for explanation), with the following condition: the Contractor will install the chain-link fence with a 6" gap at the bottom to allow for wildlife passage. Tim seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.

8:05 PM Presentation: Proposed construction of a bridge crossing Nashoba Brook, connecting the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail to the Pencil Factory

Bill Dickenson with the Acton Historic Commission, presented a conceptual plan to construct a pedestrian bridge connecting the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail to the Pencil Factory kiosk and Nashoba Brook Conservation Area trail system. The footbridge will be constructed over Nashoba Brook, spanning a breached section of the earthen dam at the "Pencil Factory" historic site. Mr. Dickenson noted that the footbridge will be approximately 50 feet in length and is not intended for bike use. A bike rack is proposed for the BFRT side of the bridge.

Commissioners included the following observations and questions in their discussion:

- (i) Noting this is an environmentally sensitive area, please resist the urge to "over engineer" the trail to be built along with the bridge.
- (ii) How will construction equipment be brought in to construct the bridge and trail?
- (iii) Will the trail be handicap accessible?
- (iv) The breached portion of the dam to be spanned with the bridge will require structural engineering review and design.
- (v) You will need to know the flood elevation of that portion of Nashoba Brook, along with the floodway characteristics of the brook.
- (vi) Is the earthen dam stable enough to support a bridge?
- (vii) Limiting the number of bike access points to the Nashoba Brook Conservation trail system is encouraged.

Mr. Dickenson noted he will be seeking Community Preservation Act funds to build the bridge. He will also look for other grant funding sources.

At 8:35 p.m., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was approved [unanimously].

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

85-1247 – 530 Main St. Amend OOC Letter

85-1247 – 530 Main St Amend OOC Plan

85-1247 – 530 Main St. Site Plans - stamped

RDA filing for 33 Nashoba Road

RDA Filing for 110-112 Central Street

Pencil Factory Bridge CPC presentation

These documents may be found here:

<http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-11854>

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry Maitland". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Terrance Maitland, Chair