



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 236

ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01720

MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 11, 1982

CALL TO ORDER: 8:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairman Charles Freeman, Mary Donovan, Saskia Huisng, Dana Sawyer, Judy Clark, **Brewster Conant**

ALSO PRESENT: Julie Lipton, Conservation Assistant; Timothy Carkin, Middlesex News; Robert Crowley, Beacon; Doug Halley, Town of Acton Engineering; Robert Canning, Acton Board of Health.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: **Cindy Torkelsen**

ITEM 1: Capital Improvement Plan Requests

Chuck Freeman asked if anyone had thought of any non-recurring expenditure items that the Commission should request in the Capital Improvement Plan form. Dana Sawyer suggested the possibility of using the Capital Improvement Plan for lane acquisition. He also said that work needs to be done on trails and along brooks. Dana asked if any parcels that could be specifically identified for the above. Since there were no suggestion, Brewster pointed out that any non-specific request would amount to a slush fund. Brewster added that there are house lots, here and there, but no large amounts of land to purchase at this time. It was decided that because there is no specific use of the capital budget plan at this time, the Commission will not submit a request form.

ITEM 2: Minutes of July 21, 1982 and July 27, 1982

On the motion of Brewster Conant, seconded by Dana Sawyer, the minutes of the July 21, 1982 meeting were unanimously approved as written.

The Conservation Assistant was requested to revise the Minutes of July 27, 1982.

ITEM 3: Strawberry Hill Office Building Site Inspection and Extension Request from Bongiorno Associates

The Conservation Assistant advised the Commission that she had inspected subject site. She told the Commission that the trees and shrubs previously dumped into the Wetlands had been removed. She also noted that the proposed retention basin has been dug, but drainage structures were not in place. A building foundation has been partially constructed on the site.

On the motion of Dana Sawyer, seconded by Saskia Huisng, the Commission unanimously granted an extension to Bongiorno Associates until November 7, 1983.

ITEM 4: 10 Meadowbrook Road - Order of Conditions (85-104)

An Order of Conditions was prepared by Judy Clark and Julie Lipton for the Commission's review. One additional condition was added to the standard boiler plate order. The Commission reviewed the condition. Dana Sawyer said that the Commission should not design for the applicant. He felt therefore, that condition 20 should be read: "a 3/4" or larger stone bed shall be placed at the outlet of the inceptor trench". On the motion of Brewster Conant, seconded by Dana Sawyer, the order was unanimously approved as amended.

ITEM 5: Acton Condo - Amended Order of Conditions (85-101)

Chuck Freeman distributed copies of the proposed amended Order of Conditions for the Commission to review. He pointed out that a sump can function in the water table. He also noted that by putting leaching basin in water table, the storage capacity would actually be increased by making it deeper. Chuck proposed eliminating the requirement for specifying the bottom of the leaching basin's to be no less than six inches above the water table elevation. It was also proposed that the Commission eliminate the requirement that the pipes be located below the frost depth. It was noted that condition 14, which requires that continual operation and maintenances of structures and related equipment, would cover faulty functioning of the proposed system in the event of a freezing pipe.

The Commission then discussed the inconsistencies on the plans and elevations submitted. Mary Donovan indicated that the plan and table don't match and therefore asked how the Commission could enforce its conditions. It was answered that the condition should read "catch basins should comply with the standards of the Acton Engineering Department". Dana said that we don't want to direct people to do specific things for the Commission, rather to word things in a passive form. The discussion on Acton Condo was suspended for the scheduled Public Hearing.

ITEM 6: River Street

Robert Canning from the Health Department and Doug Halley from the Engineering Department presented plans to correct a broken pipe which was causing water and waste material to flow onto River Street. In the winter this material freezes and causes icy driving conditions. Bob Canning told the Commission that the source of the problem was from a property at 65 School Street. Waste material from a single family house at 65 School Street goes into a pipe which crosses said street, and flows along the side property line of a lot on River Street. The pipe is broken near River Street, thus the material is discharged at ground surface and flows along River Street. In the winter, the material freezes causing icy road conditions. Mary Donavan asked to what extent is the pipe broken, and how far must repair work go. Doug Halley said that it would be known when it was opened up.

Bob Canning then said that time is the element because the Highway Department must do repair work before the frost.

Doug said that the plans presented show the work to involve repairing the pipe and adding an additional catch basin.

Bob then said that the Health Department was working with the resident of 65 School Street and that the resident has expressed a desire to fix the system. The only hold-up is financing. Bob said that the overflow pipe would have to be disconnected from the catch basin, and a subsurface system with a interceptor trench would ideally be required. He also suggested the possibility of raising the subsurface system. Dana Sawyer asked what the prospect of her (resident of 65 School Street) correcting the situation. Bob Canning answered that the Health Department is working with her, but in the meantime, they do not want the terrible ice conditions which they had last winter.

Since there were no further questions the Hearing was closed.

ITEM 5: Acton Condo - Amended Order of Conditions (continued)

The height of the riser, near the lid of the catch basin was discussed. It was noted that the height in some situations was not standard nor typical and concern was raised as to whether or not it might fail. Julie Lipton said she spoke with Ralph Herrick, of the Engineering Department. Ralph told her that there are companies who custom make catch basins. He said that it would be possible to obtain a catch basin with an a-typical riser. Julie Lipton also spoke with Don Johnson who said that in most cases an applicant does not invest capital in faulty equipment, because of the liability costs. Dana then said that the Commission should concern itself with the sump elevation, but designing the catch basin was not within the Commission's jurisdiction.

Dana asked what would be the risks of the proposed amendment, ie: allowing the pipes to be within the frost level. It was answered the the watering pipe could freeze. It was argued however, that the soil around the pipe may freeze but that it was unlikely that the water in the pipe would freeze, because of the stone around the pipe. It was summarized that the risk attached to this proposal is minimal compared to other proposals. The Commission then discussed the discrepancies with what was noted as "typical" sections and elevation chart. In many situations, the "typical" dimensions vary and the sections and elevations should be revised to note the components that vary. It was further explained by Mary Donovan, that typical means all are the same. As applied to the leaching basins, this is not the case. Chuck Freeman mentioned that in the cover letter it should be stated that the submitted data is in disagreement and that "typical" should be corrected to "varies".

The Commission then voted on the following orders:

24. A Detail showing a typical proposed leaching basin section must be approved by the Commission prior to the initiation of any work. A table indicating rim elevation, connector pipe invert elevation, sump invert elevation and seasonal high water table elevation for each basin, referenced by number on the site plan shall accompany said aforementioned detail. Leaching Basins shall have a sump depth of at least two and one-half feet, as measured from the base of the sump to the invert elevation of the four-inch perforated pipes.

The table and leaching basin section, referenced in Condition 11, shall be revised to reflect this sump dimension.

27. No snow shall be piled on site so as to interfere with the functioning of the drainage system. No snow shall be placed into the abutting wetlands.

Dana Sawyer moved that the Commission accept the amendments to the Order, seconded by Charles Freeman. All in favor: Judy Clark, Dana Sawyer, Charles Freeman, Saskia Huisng. All opposed: Mary Donovan.

On the motion of Dana Sawyer, seconded by Mary Donovan, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Saskia Huisng / Charles Freeman
Charles Freeman,
Chairman