

**DRAFT  
CITY OF FITCHBURG  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2019**

**COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Tracey Sarefield, Chair, John Cordio, Mike Donnelly, Harry Karis, John Koutonen, Mary Heline (assoc. member) [6]

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:** Tim Smith, Mike O'Hara

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 6:02 at Fitchburg Municipal Airport, 567 Crawford St., Administration Building, Room 106.

Ms. Sarefield read an introduction stating the mission statement of the Commission, and the role & responsibilities of the Conservation Commission and the eight interests of the Wetlands Protection Act.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Notice of Intent - Georgia-Pacific, soil remediation, 85 Princeton Rd. (cont'd from 11/27/18)  
Postponed to the following month's meeting at the request of the applicant's engineer Kennedy-Jenks.

Request for Determination of Applicability - Hertel, Hay Barn in buffer zone, Ashburnham Hill Rd.  
Hearing opened. Andy Hertel proposed a plan for a 60' x 120' Hay Pole Barn approximately 30 feet from an intermittent stream on one side 30 feet from a farm pond on the other. The site is across from 1577 Ashburnham Hill Rd. on agricultural land that has been in his family for generations. The Pole Barn will be where old concrete platforms for two smaller sheds are. He needs a barn to store hay out of the weather. Preferably close to the road.  
Andy is getting technical & financial assistance from Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources to build the hay barn.

Public comment: None.

Motion made & seconded to close hearing. Vote in favor.

Motion made & seconded to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability with standard boilerplate conditions. Vote in favor.

Notice of Intent - Lahti, Improve cart road in buffer zone, 833 New West Townsend Rd.  
Hearing opened. Present: Eric & Mrs. Lahti & Maryann DiPinto Three Oaks Environmental consulting. Maryann handed in proof of mailings to abutters.  
Eric & Maryann explained plan to improve a 10-foot wide carpath to provide access to a building lot on the other side of a pond. A driveway from the actual lot frontage to the proposed dwelling would have a much greater impact on the pond. Eric: A culvert will be installed underneath the cart road; culvert will be appropriately-sized to handle flows.  
There are two other building lots on the parcel but these won't be in the buffer zone of a resource area. .

Public Comment:

Dann Wuotti, 1431 Pear Hill Rd. (adjoining property owner) had submitted email earlier in the day supporting the proposal. The proposed driveway will allow better access to the pond, better access for fire trucks to both Eric's and his property. It would be an improvement.

Motion made & seconded to close hearing. Vote in favor.

Motion made & seconded to issue an Order of Conditions with standard boilerplate conditions.

Vote 6-0 favor.

Notice of Intent - Keystone Development, parking lot expansion in Buffer Zone, 371-373 Lunenburg St.

Present: Mike Staiti, Keystone Development & Chris Anderson, Hannigan Engineering.

Hearing opened. Green cards handed in to Commission.

Proposed is demolishing the bldg. at 373 Lunenburg St. & enlarging a parking area for proposed retail cannabis sales at 373 Lunenburg St. (Godfrey's).

Chris: 50% of the Riverfront Area on the site has already been degraded. With proposed site work, there will be net decrease in impervious area of 300 sq. ft. 50% of the Riverfront area on the site is already degraded.

Q: Could they stay out of "No Disturb" area? If they did, would lose 5-6 spaces.

Comments in DEP File # letter were reviewed:

How comply with Stormwater Management Standards?

Chris: By removing sediment load that would be going to the resource area.

How meet performance standards for activities near Cold Water Fisheries? Chris will research.

They are requesting waiver of the "No Disturb" area in the Ordinance. They will be removing pavement from within the "No Disturb" in order to provide green space.

Q: Could they stay out of the no Disturb area? Yes, but they'd lose 5-6 parking spaces. Police & Planning Board emphasized need for adequate on-site parking for this facility.

Commission agreed to continue hearing, but due to pending sale, they agreed to hold a Special Meeting Sat. Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. on-site. Meeting will be posted, so Commission feels they have enough information they could close the hearing and vote.

Motion made & seconded to continue hearing to Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting will be posted 48 hrs. in advance.

Another meeting will be posted for Tuesday, Feb 5<sup>th</sup> in case there's no quorum on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Vote in favor.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Grant application for proposed accessible walkway - Mirror Lake, Coggshall Park

Nate Larose, Recreation Director gave the Commission an FYI - - The Disability Commission & Parks Board are planning to apply for grants to design & build an accessible boardwalk from the driveway in front of the Coggshall Park Stone House to the Gazebo at Mirror Lake. They have applied for CDBG funds and will be applying for a Recreational Trails Grant from Mass DCR. Undetermined at this time whether boardwalk would run along the shoreline or go across the lake at the shortest point. Current access to the Gazebo is rocky, seniors & other have difficulty traversing. This would make more of the park accessible & would be an attraction. Nate will be back with more info as project progresses.

Ralph Baker also mentioned the Rollstone Hill Trail (Rock Walk) that will be built with a \$100K Recreational Trails Grant. The Community Foundation has also donated \$13K for survey work.

Grant application for watershed land - Crocker Farm

Janet Morrison presented handout explaining possible grant proposal to fund acquisition of a Conservation Restriction for watershed protection on portions of the Crocker Farm in Fitchburg, Ashby & Ashburnham. Conservation Commissions of each town would be required to hold the CR.

More info will be provided to the Commission as the project progresses. Mike O'H will work with Janet & keep the Commission informed.

Correspondence

MACC Annual Conference Sat. March 2<sup>nd</sup> at Holy Cross. Commissioners interested can contact Community Development to register.

Certificates of Compliance

None.

Motion made & seconded to adjourn. Vote in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 8:13 p.m.

Next meeting: 2/2/19 (site walk 371-373 Lunenburg St.) & 2/5/19 (if necessary)

Next regular meeting: 2/24/19