

**CITY OF FITCHBURG  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2018**

**COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Tracey Sarefield, Chair, Bryan Breau, Mike Donnelly, Harry Karis, John Koutonen, David Streb (6)

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:** Mike O'Hara

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 6:03 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.

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the January 30<sup>th</sup> & February 27<sup>th</sup> meetings approved.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Notice of Intent - Montachusett Regional Transit Authority - Improvements to existing parking area in Buffer Zone, 1427R Water St. (cont'd from 2/27/18)

Hearing re-opened. Mike Malynowski, P.E. Allen & Major Assocs. and Bob Benoit, MART Facilities Manager present.

Some revisions to plan presented & 3/17/18 site visit recapped. Since last meeting, soil testing has shown that the area proposed for underground recharge of runoff from the parking area is contaminated with petroleum products. They are no longer proposing to recharge any runoff from paved area, but will be installing a stormwater detention basin. The system has been designed to meet DEP stormwater standards. Instead they propose to infiltrate roof runoff from the new equipment storage bldg. There is adequate sand & gravel and no contamination in that area. Water quality units will be installed as part of stormwater system.

Public Comment:

Robert MacPhail, 1351 Water St. - MART should do a better job of cleaning up property.

Bob Benoit: MART will clean up area and replace rusted chain link fence.

Commission suggests as part of cleaning-up to keep drainage swale clear of debris & free of trash (insert as special condition).

Motion made & seconded to continue hearing to April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Vote in favor

Notice of Intent - Rameau, replacement septic system in buffer zone, 205 Central Ave Extension

Hearing opened & abutters' green cards submitted.

Steve Sears, Ross Assocs. & Dan Proctor present. Steve presented plan for replacement system.

Q: Could system be located further away from wetland. No, there is a limited area on the lot in which to place a new system; that's the best they could do. Board of Health approved new septic design 3/8/18.

Dan Proctor will be installing system. Commission is OK with either silt fence or straw wattles.

Motion made & seconded to close hearing.

Motion made & seconded to issue Order of Conditions with standard conditions. Remove erosion controls prior to requesting Cert. of Compliance. Vote in favor.

On another matter Steve asked the Commission about procedure for filing for a septic replacement project on Fisher Rd., on the Fitchburg/Lunenburg town line. Most of the work will be in Lunenburg, they will file an NOI there. A small amount of grading is on the Fitchburg side.

Q: Would the Commission prefer a full NOI or a Request for Determination of Applicability?

Agreed: An RDA will be OK so long as Lunenburg enforces their OOC. Commission wants to be informed of the date when this goes before the Lunenburg Commission.

Notice of Intent - Carey, work in Buffer Zone, Billings Rd., Lots 1, 5 & 6 (cont'd from 2/27/18)

Hearing re-opened. Stan Dillis, Ducharme & Dillis present.

Stan submitted revised plans with wetland flag #s now noted on plans. Corrected NOIs submitted, originals had typos.

Lot 1 (northernmost lot)

House location has been pulled away from wetland. John K suggested: Deed restriction, No future disturbance of buffer zone, install Commission's "Buffer Zone - No Disturbance" signs.

Mike D: Edge of work is just 10-15 feet from edge of wetlands, basically eliminating the Buffer Zone. He suggested grading and stabilizing the rear yard and septic system first, then start on the house.

Motion made & seconded to close hearing on Lot 1. Vote in favor.

Motion made & seconded to issue Order of Conditions for Lot 1 with standard conditions, and that work shall consist of two phases: Phase I - After septic & foundation is installed site shall be graded and stabilized before proceeding to Phase II. Phase II - Framing and construction of house.

Vote 6-0 in favor.

Lot 5

No changes to plan. Wet area is not jurisdictional under WPA but it IS jurisdictional under the local Wetlands Ordinance.

Motion made & seconded to close hearing on Lot 5. Vote in favor.

Motion made & seconded to issue OOC for Lot 5. Vote 6-0 in favor.

Lot 6

No changes to plan. Motion made & seconded to close hearing on Lot 6. Vote in favor.

Motion made & seconded to issue OOC for Lot 6. Vote 6-0 in favor.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Emergency Certifications

Georgia Pacific LLC, 85 Princeton Rd. OOC for covering remaining exposed paper sludge in buffer zone had been issued by Commission last year. Since that time, old 55-gallon drums were recently discovered on site. DEP was notified; they have an Immediate Response Action from DEP to remove drums.

Key Fitchburg, LLC - update

No City Property Committee meeting has been scheduled so far concerning the donation of several JFH parcels. Will keep checking schedule.

Correspondence

Peter Hodges owner of 307 Airport Rd. present. His tenant (Garden Remedies) is planning to regrade lot & install greenhouses behind existing building. Some of area is in floodplain and Riverfront.

Q: Will it need NOI or request for Determination? Commission agreed: File NOI.

Mr. Hodges also interested in using parcel on opposite side of Nashua River for expansion of the business and building a bridge over the river. Parcel is owned by the Conservation Commission. Discussion on possibility of acquiring part of that parcel. Would need replacement land of similar resource value. Mike D: Can't get better land with a conservation interest than Riverfront.

Tim cautioned about the time and expense that process would take: ConCom & City Council Approval, 2/3 vote of Legislature, extensive permitting. The Commission's parcel has unique conservation value because it borders river.

Consensus: Commission would have to see the replacement land that this parcel would be swapped for. If this were replacement of Industrial land, it would be easier. But this is a virgin site, never built on, that borders both the Nashua R. & Baker Brook. Commission would have to see what they were getting in return.

93 Nockege St.

Tim & Tracey had visited site. Several concerns raised, particularly with exposed soil & stockpiling of material in Riverfront, and construction debris. Matt Fournier (contractor) has been advised of issues & has addressed some of them.

Tracey reminded Commission members of the March 14<sup>th</sup> March for Science at Coolidge Park.

Motion made & seconded to adjourn. Vote in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 7:56 p.m.

Minutes approved: 4/24/18

Next meeting: 4/24/18