

**CITY OF FITCHBURG  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2018**

**COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Tracey Sarefield, Chair, John Cordio, Mike Donnelly, Harry Karis, John Koutonen (5)

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 6:00 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 March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting were 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. Brian Jones, P.E., Allen & Major Assocs. and Bob Benoit, MART Facilities Manager present. Since last meeting: Five soil borings were done. No reportable levels of contamination found. Depth to groundwater: 10 feet. Infiltration rate is 10 mins. per inch. Of the two options for stormwater management (underground recharge chambers vs. surface detention basin). Commission preferred recharge, since site is clean.

Public comment: None.

Hearing closed.

Motion made & seconded to issue Order of conditions w/ standard conditions and installing the underground recharge as originally proposed.

Vote 5-0 in favor.

Request for Determination of Applicability - Clark, replacement septic system in buffer zone, 986 Fisher Rd. (on Lunenburg town line)

Hearing opened. Last month Commission had agreed to accept an RDA filing since there was a relatively small amount of grading (550 sq. ft. +/-) on the Fitchburg side of line; most of the work is in Lunenburg. Neil Gorman, David Ross Assocs. presented plan - new septic & public chamber & piping. Approx. 550 sq. ft. +/- of grading around the septic system is in Fitchburg.

Q: Can replacement system be moved to an area further away from resource area? No, because on the other side there's an even more limited area.

They will be filing an NOI with the Lunenburg Commission. No hearing scheduled yet.

A water line connects this dwelling and the adjacent one at 1178 Fisher Rd., rather than a separate connection from the water main in the street. Neil says that situation have apparently existed for years.

No public comment. Hearing closed.

Motion made & seconded to issue Negative Determination of Applicability

Vote 5-0 in favor.

Notice of Intent - Fitchburg Renewables, LLC, 239 Fisher Rd., ground-mounted solar array

Hearing re-opened. Ben Axelman, NexAmp and Mike Scott, WDA Design present. Mike described changes to plan since last hearing:

- No solar panels in buffer zone
- Almost all of grading is outside of buffer zone
- Wider buffer where existing trees will remain on Fisher Rd. side
- Landscape buffer to be provided at NE & NW corners of site, adjacent to two group homes.

The Peer Review by Bill Kuriger, LSP was reviewed. NexAmp's Health & Safety Plan has been revised to incorporate Bill's suggestions.

No public comment. Hearing closed.

Motion made & seconded to issue Order of Conditions with standard conditions, including pre-construction meeting on-site with contractor & Commission representative p., and compliance with suggestions in peer review. Vote 5-0 in favor.

Their timeline? Planning to start in summer 2018 and complete project by end of year.

Notice of Intent - 431 Westminster Street, LLC - modifications to existing parking area in Riverfront Area, 431 Westminster Street, LLC

Hearing opened. Wes Flis, Whitman & Bingham Assocs. & Matt Fournier, applicant resented plan. Propose to reconfigure parking to maximize the # of spaces for future tenants, have a more efficient loading area and access for deliveries, and provide sufficient handicapped parking. Some pavement will be removed. Net decrease in impervious area in Inner Riparian zone. There will be a *de minimus* increase (9 cu. ft.) in flood storage capacity.

Public comment:

Pat McCarty, in audience for a later agenda item, supports project.

Mike D: Why need a security fence on the rear (river) side of the site? Matt: To keep out trespassers.

No public comment. Hearing closed.

Motion made & seconded to issue Order of Conditions with standard conditions  
Vote 5-0 in favor.

Notice of Intent - Garden Remedies, Inc., 307 Airport Rd., stumping, grubbing & installing crushed stone in 100-year floodplain & Riverfront Area

Hearing opened. Pat McCarty, McCarty Engineering presented plan showing clearing of brush & tree debris at the rear of the building and installation of a pad of crushed stone. To expand their growing capacity, Garden Remedies plans to install greenhouses inside a secured area on the crushed stone.

Public comment.

Jeff Murawski, DPW-Wastewater: How close is work to nearby sewer trunkline? 50 feet, this work should have no effect on the trunkline. The berm on top of the sewer protects any material from getting into the Nashua.

Hearing closed.

Motion made & seconded to issue Order of Conditions with standard conditions, subject to obtaining the DEP file #. Vote 5-0 in favor.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Emergency Certification - McTaggart's Pond Dam

Nick Erickson, DPW-Engineering gave update. DPW plans to fill cracks on the upstream face of the dam w/ non-shrink grout. They are still evaluating dam removal. Motion made & seconded to issue Emergency Certification to permit this work.

Key Fitchburg, LLC – update.

Item is on City Property Committee's 5/1/18 agenda.

Certificates of Compliance

Commission signed two (155-424, Baker Brook slope stabilization, Coolidge Park & 155-649, Shea St. Flood Hazard Mitigation Project, Ph. II). Agreed to hold 155-659, 431 Westminster St. - roof drain until next meeting.

Motion made & seconded to adjourn. Vote in favor.  
Meeting adjourned: 8:05 p.m.

Next meeting: 5/29/18  
Minutes approved: 7/31/18