



MEETING MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Monday, May 15th, 2017
6:30 P.M.

Town Hall – Lower Level Meeting Room

Present: MD: Marshall Dennis
CP: Christopher Picone
LC: Linda Couture
AH: Andrew Henderson

6:30 PM: Agenda Review/General Discussion

MD opened the meeting of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission under the MA Wetland Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and in accordance with the Ashburnham Wetlands Protection Bylaw and associated Rules and Regulations.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

6:35 PM – Notice of Intent: Cushing Academy Dining Hall Addition and Renovations (Map 21, Parcel 106). MD opened the continued public hearing relative to the NOI filed by Cushing Academy for the construction of a Dining Hall addition, renovations and additions to Ashburnham House, as well as site grading within the Riverfront Area of a perennial stream. In attendance representing the Academy were Brian Milisci of Whitman & Bingham and Sean Donnelly of CSL Consulting.

Rather than demolish the historic Stone Building to accommodate the proposed additions/renovations, Mr. Donnelly stated that it currently was proposed to relocate the building to the southeast corner of Main Street/School Street intersection. As Mr. Milisci explained, building relocation would result in additional disturbance to the Riverfront Area. He added, however, that with the exception of the site on which the building was to be moved, the RFA disturbed by the building's relocation would be returned to pre-relocation conditions

A grading plan indicating the building relocation and area of RFA disturbance also was provided by Mr. Milisci, as was a planting list for areas to be landscaped. Further, it was acknowledged that DEP had issued a file number for the project, i.e. 092-0934.

With respect to site drainage, Mr. Milisci noted that the previously proposed pipe that would have extended to the catch basin in front of Cooke Hall, has now been relocated. As currently proposed and shown on the revised plans, the pipe instead will connect to a drainage line that connects to another existing manhole, and then discharges to a perennial stream near Quimby (football) fields. A plan showing the entire piping system from the proposed work area to the discharge location will be provided to the Commission prior to construction.

MD recommended that the applicants send all the updated materials to DEP, as those materials will address recent DEP comments.

MD further noted that portions of the Stormwater Form were not checked when, in fact, they should have been checked. Some calculations also were missing, such as the total suspended solids (TSS) worksheets indicating that the proposed stormwater management system would meet State Standards for 80% TSS removal.

In this regard, Mr. Milisci stated that consistent with Standard #10, the applicant is not aware of any illicit stormwater discharges onsite. He also stated that while a "Stormceptor" system was proposed for treating runoff, a different proprietary stormwater system may be installed based on construction bid documents. In response, MD commented that once the actual system to be installed was known, this information would be provided to the Commission along with data regarding the performance of the selected system and the manufacturer's system-specific long-term operations/maintenance plan.

Lastly, Mr. Milisci added that maintenance of the underground detention system and all other aspects of the stormwater management system would be the responsibility of Cushing Academy.

MD motioned to close the Hearing for Cushing Academy.
LC seconded.
Approved 4 – 0.

MD motioned to approve the NOI for Cushing Academy and issue an Order of Conditions per plan and discussion.
LC seconded.
Approved 4 – 0.

MD will contact SD when the Order is ready for pick up.

Guest & Visitors: None

Other Commission Business/Administration:

MD noted that, via e-mail, the Stodge Meadow Pond Association has requested a 5-year extension on their 2008 pond drawdown permit which will expire in August 2017. MD will review the file to determine if the Association has been providing drawdown monitoring reports as required in the Order of Conditions. The decision to extend the Order or require the filing of a new NOI will be made at a future Commission meeting.

MD motioned to approve the final draft minutes from **Feb 27, April 10, and April 24, 2017**.
LC seconded.
Approved 4 – 0.

MD also noted that he will inquire about the printing of the OSRP manuscript.

Tonight's meeting replaces the regular meeting for May 22, 2017. Therefore, the next Commission meeting is **Monday, June 12th**.

MD motioned to adjourn.
LC seconded.
Approved 4 – 0.

7:25 Adjourned.