

**Town of Bellingham  
Conservation Commission  
Municipal Center  
Minutes of the Meeting of August 26, 2015**

Before the meeting opened, Cliff Matthews noted that newly appointed members, Michael Roche and Shawn Wade, had been sworn in by the Town Clerk that afternoon. Re-appointed members, Lori Fafard and Brian Norton had not yet had an opportunity to be sworn in and therefore could not vote this evening.

**Project: 105-755 & BWP-103**  
CNOI

**Project Description:**  
Pine Grove Avenue – submersible sewage pumping station

**Applicant:**  
Donald Di Martino, DPW  
26 Blackstone St.  
Bellingham, MA

**Representative:**  
David Press, Kleinfelder  
1 Speen St. Suite 200  
Framingham, MA

**Plans: NOI & Plans, “Pine Grove Sewage Pumping Station, Existing and Proposed Site Plan”, 1 Sheet, April 2015, Rev May 6, 2015, Alternatives Analysis Pine Grove July 2015**

**Continuation time: 7:30 PM**

Donald DiMartino as well as abutters M/M Ducharme, and Jack Federovich were present when the continued hearing was opened by Cliff Matthews. Mr. DiMartino stated that at the last hearing in June, the Conservation Commission had requested an Alternatives Analysis for the Riverfront Area consistent with the Wetlands Protection Act requirements and also a letter from an arborist relative to the condition of the existing maple tree on the site. DiMartino stated that his preferred alternative was to decommission the existing syphon and install the pump station and electrical panel utilizing the Helical Pile method. The property owners have discussed granting a right of entry to the town if the platform is placed in this location. DiMartino stated that he would be on site supervising the project and that the DPW already has the equipment needed to perform the work with the exception of the pile auger. The helical piles would create the four foundation pilings needed for the electrical panel and the work would be overseen by the arborist to make sure that the tree roots are not compromised. Some tree branch over-story up to 18 feet above the work area would also have to be cut to install the panel. After Cliff Mathews asked about the possible panel location directly across the street, Mr. DiMartino stated that there are too many existing utilities at that location and that the panel would be too far from the inspection site. Cliff Matthews stated that all of this activity is taking place in the inner riparian zone to the Peters River and that the 120 year old maple tree is providing shading and habitat values to the river. Some additional Special Conditions to be included in the Order of Conditions are the requirement to investigate the pile locations for possible roots, have the arborist on site to oversee the helical pile borings (see arborist’s recommendation letter) and that silt fence shall be used for protection around the tree during construction. Mr. DiMartino wants to get this work completed in the autumn after town meeting. Cliff Matthews noted that due to the “Mullen Rule” only Neal Standley, Michael O’Herron and he could vote. Neal Standley moved to close the hearing and issue the Order of Conditions. Michael O’Herron seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

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**Conservation Commission**

**Minutes of the meeting of August 26, 2015**

**Page #2**

**Project: 105-764 & BWP-115**

NOI

**Project Description:**

Locust St. to Wrentham Road water loop and  
Benelli Street to Central Boulevard water loop

**Applicant:**

Don DiMartino, DPW Director  
26 Blackstone Street  
Bellingham, Ma

**Representative:**

Kendra White, BETA Group  
315 Norwood Park South  
Norwood, MA

**Plans: NOI & Plans “Town Water Main Projects” Locust St.” Sheets 1-10 July 2015 AND Plans, “Existing Conditions Benelli St. to Central Blvd. 4/28/2015 and Existing Conditions Locust St. 2/25/2015: Letter from Natural Heritage 8/6/15, letter withdrawing the Locust St. portion of the project August 25, 2015**

**Continuation time: 8:00 PM**

Donald DiMartino and Darwin Cevallos of BETA were present. After Cliff Matthews opened the continued hearing, he stated that the project does not qualify as an ecological restoration project under Sec 10.24(A)(e)(3) and to refer to criteria located in Sec 10.24 (8)(e)3. He also stated that the project does not qualify for 10.53(4) Limited project and to refer to 10.53 (4)(e) in the WPA Regulations.

Mr. Matthews stated that the Commission received a letter dated August 25, 2015 from BETA withdrawing the Locust St. portion of the filing. Don DiMartino asked that we withdraw that information for the present and discuss the Locust Street portion of the filing after discussing the Benelli St. portion.

**Benelli Street** Darwin Cevallos of BETA then proceeded to describe the work proposed under the Benelli St. portion of the filing. He added that members of the Conservation Commission visited the site on Sat. August 22<sup>nd</sup> to review the resource area delineation and had no changes to the wetland boundary at Benelli Street. Cevallos stated that the proposal is to install a ten inch pipe under the Peters River via horizontal directional drilling to connect the water line to Central Boulevard. Six to seven trees will be removed in order to implement the HDD project but will be replaced as shown on the Sheets 4 and 5 Benelli St. revised plan 8/26/15 submitted this evening. The soil boring logs have been included in the filing. Haybales and silt fence will be utilized as erosion control. Once the access points are created to allow for HDD, all the work will take place underground. This includes driving the pipe in at the access point, pulling it underground and connecting to the ductile iron pipe in the street. Cliff Matthews stated how important the HDD process is vs. open trenching resource areas which require restoration. Don DiMartino explained that the HDD process, although fairly new, is quick and without extreme cost.

**Locust Street** Don DiMartino stated that after the Commission visited the site and discovered that the resource area boundary was much expanded, that numerous trees were slated for removal and a significant area of wetlands was proposed for disturbance under the open trench proposal, he would like to investigate the possibility of using the HDD method of connecting the water loops in a 600 foot portion of the 1700 linear foot Benelli St. to Wrentham Road project that traverses the resource area. He added that the alternative of connecting the water mains along Wrentham Road would be much too costly at almost \$1 million. Cliff Matthews noted that the open trenching method would also be very costly because the project must meet the performance standards of the Wetlands Protection Act. Mr. Cevallos then described the new draft proposal. He stated that the HDD would begin at the green on the golf course where the pipe would be inserted. Borings to depths of 20 -30 feet would be taken. This HDD project would be included in the

**Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of the meeting of August 26, 2015**  
**Page #3**

other HDD contract and if the contractor were unsuccessful with this section of HDD, he would not get paid. Mr. DiMartino explained that he would like to rescind the withdrawal request and proceed with this new proposal so that it can be permitted. He added that the 600 linear feet in the HDD would be added to the balance of the 1100 linear feet open trench portion of Locust St/Wrentham Road water main installation in the buffer zone. Cliff explained that these two projects should have been filed separately because they are two completely different locations. Don DiMartino and Darshan will provide a narrative and plans with the new proposal addressing the perennial stream and large wetland system. A copy of the letter rescinding the withdrawal to DEP will also be submitted to the Conservation Commission. There were no further comments or questions. Due to the Mullen Rule, only three members could vote. Neal Standley made a motion to continue to Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 PM. Motion was seconded by Michael O'Herron and the motion carried unanimously with the Standley, O'Herron, Matthews affirmative vote.

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**Informational Session: Taunton Street/ DPW/ Roadway & Drainage Improvements proposal**  
**Plans: Letter "Concept Design for the Reconstruction of Nason & Taunton St. & Plans: Nason & Taunton St. Concept Design Plans Sheet 1 of 16, August 14, 2015**

Don DiMartino and John Rhoads of Professional Services Corp. (PSC) were present. Mr. Rhoads presented the concept design plans (90% complete) explaining that the proposal includes widening the roadway, adding curbing and sidewalks in some areas, sanitary sewer connections (as included in the Master Plan), and water mains. There are several resource areas that were delineated by John Rockwood that have been included on the plans including Riverfront Area, Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and Special Flood Hazard Area. Mr. Rhoads presented the drainage concept design for Wethersfield Road, Donna Road, Arbend Circle, Sunset Court and Horseshoe Drive. Work would be proposed in the Riverfront Area and the gas easement at Taunton St. The existing stone culvert at Sunset Court (over an unnamed stream) may have to be replaced with a bottomless culvert per Army Corps. 401/404 permit requirements. Mr. Rhoads stated that this may present a problem if the sewer line is installed due to the potential for scouring in the culvert bottom. Peak flow attenuations will be another item that Mr. Rhoads will take into consideration when further designing the stormwater management systems for the roadways. Upon completion of the design phase, Mr. Rhoads will submit a Notice of Intent.

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**Project: 105-765 & BWP-116**  
NOI

**Project Description:**  
64 Fox Run Road – 800 sf addition and patio

**Applicant:**  
Shannon Delaney  
64 Fox Run Road  
Bellingham, MA

**Representative:**  
Stephen O'Connell  
Andrews Survey & Engineering  
Uxbridge, MA

**Plans: NOI & Conservation Plan of 64 Fox Run Road, July 29, 2015**

**Hearing time: 9:00 PM**

Shannon Delaney and her mother, as well as Stephen O'Connell of Andrews Surveying were present when Cliff Matthews opened the hearing. Mr. O'Connell stated that the filing is for the proposal to construct an 800 sf addition and patio onto any existing dwelling located within the 100 foot buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands. The closest point to the resource area to be impacted is approx. 16 feet. The construction will take place in the lawn area and no trees would be cut. Erosion control

**Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of the meeting of August 26, 2015**  
**Page #4**

consisting of straw wattles will be installed per plan. O'Connell stated that a small amount of grading would take place in the 25' No Disturb Zone. Tree badges demarking the 25 foot No Disturb Zone will be placed along the tree line. Cliff Matthews asked if the applicant had spoken with the Board of Health. Mr. O'Connell stated that he did and that the architectural plans presented to the Zoning Board have eliminated one of the existing bedrooms. Vin Forte of Berkshire Environmental Services delineated the wetlands on the site. The foundation will be a knee wall only. Cliff Matthews suggested that members of the Commission visit the site to confirm the delineation. There were no further questions. Neal Standley moved to visit the site on Sat., Aug 29, prepare the Order of Conditions for signing for the next meeting and continue the hearing to Wed., Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:35PM. Shawn Wade seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

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**Project: 105-766 & BWP-117**  
NOI

**Project Description:**

119 South Maple Street – 3.1 MW Solar Photovoltaic System in BZ

**Applicant:**

Andrew Bernstein, Kearsarge  
480 Pleasant Street, Suite B110 15 Spring Street  
Watertown, MA

**Representative:**

Michael Lotti, Innovative Engineering Solutions  
Walpole, MA

**Plans: NOI & Plans: “Bellingham Landfill Solar Generation Station”, Cover Sheet, Sheets C1-C10, July 7, 2015**  
**Hearing time: 9:30 PM**

Michael Lotti, project engineer and contractor, and Don DiMartino were present when Cliff Matthews opened the hearing. Michael Lotti stated that he represents the applicant Kearsarge Bellingham LLC for the proposed solar array located on town owned land at the capped landfill site. He stated that the solar panels would be located on the landfill and two other undisturbed flat forested areas nearby. Mr. Lotti stated that ½ MW solar is outside the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. The southwest array would have eleven acres of tree clearing and would contain 8,600 solar panels. The northwest array would have 5.5 acres of tree clearing. Approximately one acre of tree clearing would take place in the outer riparian zone and less than an acre of trees are proposed for removal in the buffer zone. Resource areas on the site include Riverfront Area to the Peters River, Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, a small BVW area with a potential vernal pool and pond, as well as associated buffer zones. A tree clearing and grubbing plan and overall grading plan are included in the filing. Mr. Lotti stated that stormwater will be collected in shallow wide basins and that the soils on site are sandy and very suitable for drainage. Cliff Matthews noted that the comments by DEP (on the DEP number issuance letter) include a comment that DEP considers solar panels as impervious and therefore the stormwater management calculations should reflect this. Additionally, no borings at basin locations have been provided. Mr. Lotti commented that in his conversations with DEP for the landfill, DEP's Solid Waste Division seemed to be in agreement with his previous treatment of the stormwater. Cliff Matthews stated that we do not want to create the potential for erosion problems at the site since many trees will be removed. Mr. Lotti stated that the project does not need large stockpile areas. He added that the resource area for a proposed access roadway was not included in the plans. The second access roadway is currently utilized by the landfill to transport compost to another area on the site. Michael O'Herron noted that this gravel road may need upgrades in order to handle the large equipment needed to remove trees for this project. He asked Mr. Lotti to quantify disturbance to the roadway from the use of large trucks. He also stated that gravel roads need to be protected with erosion control and drainage

**Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of the meeting of August 26, 2015**  
**Page #5**

must be addressed. Don DiMartino then stated that the water pipe ends at Sand Castle Lane. He would like to extend the water main up to 500 feet to connect to Lakeview Ave. He was unaware that Mr. Lotti was submitting this plan and asked Mr. Lotti if he could use the delineation to proceed with filing a RDA for the water loop which would run in the existing gravel access road. Mr. Lotti and Mr. Scott Rabideau of Natural Resource Services will set up a potential site walk to confirm the resource areas because members of the Commission were not available for the next couple of weeks. Mr. Rabideau will notify the Commission of the site walk schedule. Cliff Matthews stated that we would discuss the potential stormwater management and site access roadway system at the continued hearing. Michael Roche moved to continue the hearing to Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 PM. Motion was seconded by Michael O'Herron and voted unanimously.

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The minutes of the meetings of July 8, 2015 and July 22, 2015 were accepted.

Cliff Matthews, on behalf of the Conservation Commission, welcomed new members Michael Roche and Shawn Wade.

Cliff Matthews stated that the Vice Chairman Barry Lariviere was not re-appointed by the Board of Selectmen and therefore there was a vacancy for that position. He moved to nominate Neal Standley as Vice Chairman and asked for any other nominations. There were none. Michael O'Herron moved to name Neal Standley as Vice Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

Cliff Matthews stated that the town has entered into a contract with Aquatic Control Technology to remove Phragmites from the beach area at Silver Lake this autumn.

Attending the meeting were: Cliff Matthews, Neal Standley, Michael O'Herron, Lori Fafard, Brian Norton, Mike Roche, Shawn Wade and Anne Matthews. Scott Rabideau of Natural Resource Services, BCC consultant, was also present.