

**Bellingham
Conservation Commission
Municipal Center
Bellingham, MA 02019
Minutes of the meeting of September 14, 2016**

Project: 105-788
CNOI

Project Description: Maple Street Right of Way, from the Charles River Bridge to 942 feet south of the route 495 overpass – Maple Street roadway and drainage improvements

Applicant:
Don DiMartino, DPW
1 Hartford Ave.
Bellingham, MA

Representative:
Rob Kenneally
Kleinfelder Company
1 Speen Street, STE 200
Framingham, MA 01701

Plans: NOI & Dept. of Public Works Town of Bellingham, MA, Maple Street Maintenance and Drainage Improvements, Ten Sheets, July 2016, Stormwater Management Report, 7/20/2016

Hearing time: 7:30 PM

Mr. Matthews opened the continued hearing. Cliff Matthews commented for the record, that the Conservation Commission has identified an area for possible replication north of Route 495 and east of Maple Street. Norse Environmental was hired to investigate the feasibility of that location for replication. The Conservation Commission site walk identified that there was an upland area between two wetlands and that clearing the forested area would be too disruptive. The north area likely contained a vernal pool, while the southern wetland area did not but the likelihood of animal movement between the two wetland areas through the upland area would provide important habitat. We do have the discretionary authority to allow 5000 ft.² or less of disruption without requiring replication. The commission felt that clearing a forest in order to establish the wetland replication area, most likely wet meadow, would result in upland habitat destruction. Careful review of all alternatives led the commission to believe that this area was the only possibility for successful replication. The comment was made “digging a hole and planting wetland plants” doesn’t meet the performance standards. Therefore, the Commission agreed to waive the replication requirements in this particular situation. Neal Standley made a motion to waive the replication requirements, seconded by Shawn Wade, and passed on a unanimous vote. Cliff Matthews stated he would notify the DEP about revisions to the plans and to reflect the waiver. The DPW will also need a waiver from the Planning Board for work on a designated Scenic Road. They should also request a variance from moving/replicating stone walls where that would negatively impact the adjacent wetlands. If the requirement for rebuilding stone walls is eliminated in wetland area resource areas, the overall project impact will be less than 5,000 square feet. The Town Planner, Jim Kupfer, requested that the DPW send a letter requesting this variance and that it would be noted on the new plans. There will now be 3 areas of stone wall replication (instead of 5), with the revised plans. Existing culverts will be replaced as proposed on the plan. There will be 4, 960 ft.² of wetlands impact.

Various technical details were reviewed by Rob Kenneally – drain pipe sizes, catch basin locations, and sheet flow of drainage. No hydraulics calculations/ modeling were changed. Mr. Kenneally asked what a “limited project” was. Cliff Matthews responded that it is a project where we (the Conservation Commission) were permitted to consider options that are less restrictive due to the fact that this filing is a roadway improvement/maintenance project. Revised calculations will be

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submitted and will be reference in the Order of Conditions. They will show the difference in storage capacity and improved management of stormwater discharge along with the revised plans.

Brian Norton made a motion to continue the hearing to October 12 at 7:30 PM, seconded by Shawn Wade, and passed on a unanimous vote.

Project: 105-784 & BWP – 137

CNOI

Applicant:

K & S Realty Trust
1 Stallbrook Rd.
Milford, MA 01757

Project Description: Hixon Street – Hartford Village II. Construct six (6), three unit structures within the 100' buffer zone

Representative:

JP Connelly
Andrews Survey & Engineering, Inc.
104 Mendon Street
Uxbridge, MA 01569

Plans: NOI & Revised Concept Plans

Continuation Time: 8:15 PM

Cliff Matthews opened the continued hearing. JP Connelly presented revised plans which show that the main scope of work has remained the same. Peer review has returned several comments that need to be addressed. Cliff Matthews stated this the plan was the concept plan presented at the last hearing. Our issues are:

1. Septic system near the first unit off of Hixon Street provided no detail for the retaining wall; it appears to be approximately 6 to 10 feet from the first unit. Mr. Connelly said they will look at tweaking/revising septic system layout to address that concern.
2. Detention basin & infiltration basin – Cliff stated that he had hoped to see only one detention basin, but Mr. Connelly replied that they needed two, one a forebay and the other for infiltration, in order to meet the stormwater management guidelines.

The quantity of trees being removed – There was confusion as to whether the number included in the Notice of Intent was number of trees or number of square feet and if so, how many square feet. The applicant was uncertain whether the 3,385 square feet was an accurate number as the total number of trees in the buffer zone must be quantified. There may be as great as 9,300 square feet of trees removed due to the deep incursion (within 43 feet) into the buffer zone. The commission suggested that the applicant should attempt greater reduction in buffer zone impacts. That being said, the question was asked, how many trees will be cut in the buffer zone, and how will that be mitigated? The types and characteristics of the trees were not identified. They may need to request a waiver if too many trees are being cut to replicate/ plant elsewhere on the site. Cliff Matthews looked at other areas on the site to mitigate with new plantings. Mr. Connelly will try to quantify the number of trees. He is also currently responding to peer review questions and confirmed that some test pits are needed (in the sediment fore bay – infiltration basin – and detention basin).

In the buffer zone, 3 out of 4 very large trees we want to try to save (30 inch – 40 inch diameter) – look like they can be preserved. The question was asked by an attending abutter, Mrs. Hamjian, about the

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“snow farm” berm – specifically the height and location; and what would happen to the snowmelt runoff. That information was identified on the plans by the presenter Mr. Connelly and he stated that the snowmelt runoff would be directed into the storm drainage system.

The detention basin is designed to hold a 100 year storm. It was suggested that the O & M performance penalties be increased.

The fence along the top of the stormwater management structures should be shown (it was omitted), and have a 6 inch “critter clearance” at the base. Mr. Harry Hamjian asked where the low point of the cul-de-sac was located and was informed that it would be at the catch basins. Cliff Matthews noted that the closest area of impact is currently shown as 43 feet, and he requested that the distance to the resource area be increased as much as possible. Mr. Connelly replied that he thought that was possible, if they could increase the slope or put in a wall and he would investigate options. They are planning a meeting with the Planning Board on 9/22/16 and they would like to be ready to come back to the Conservation Commission on 9/28 or 10/12.

Mr. Matthews entertained a motion from Neal Standley to continue the hearing to October 12 at 8:00 PM, which was seconded by Shawn Wade, and passed on unanimous vote.

Updates:

The next meeting will begin at 7:15 PM on 9/28/16, to allow a special presentation by Jim Kupfer, the Town Planner regarding plans for a dog park adjacent to the High Street Fields parking area. Jim and Cliff have already walked the area.

Boy Scouts –A local troop has contacted us for Eagle Scout project ideas from the commission. Possible ideas include: providing a way of accessing the SNET trail from the center of town (the high school) to Silver Lake. A local resident will be looking into options for crossing wetlands and skirting the town landfill and the adjacent, new photovoltaic solar array.

Indian Run Road – possible development of new house lot and septic system. There is a drainage channel/intermittent stream involved and the developer/engineer would like to meet with us. Cliff Matthews will contact them.

Crystal Spring fence request – 30 foot split rail /vinyl fence. The property owners Association wants to put this at the top of the hill in a lawn within the hundred foot buffer zone. We will wait for presentation.

Certificate of Compliance for the septic system replacement at 450 Hartford Ave. was signed.

Michael O’Herron moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 PM, seconded by Neal Standley and passed on a unanimous vote.

Attending the meeting was: Cliff Matthews, Brian Norton, Shawn Wade, Neal Standley, Michael O’Herron, and Arianne Barton, Associate Member.