

BLACKSTONE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2009

Jesse Bousquet, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Present Were:

Jesse Bousquet
James Pitler
Maggie Plasse

James Plasse
Lisa Brita
Tamara Heiselmeyer

Edward Whipple, 515 Douglas Turnpike, No. Smithfield, RI – Continued from the October 19th meeting. Notice of Intent submitted for proposed construction of a single-family dwelling and driveway, septic system and well on Map 26, Lot 34 and part of Lot 1, Union Street. Mr. Whipple was present at the hearing. Also present as representative was Lisa Barbosa of Marc N. Nyberg Assoc.

Mrs. Barbosa said that the driveway is an existing cartpath. Mr. Plasse commented that Union Street gets flooded often. Mrs. Barbosa said that they are proposing to use gravel on the driveway. Ms. Plasse said that gravel is an impervious surface, and she would not like them to use gravel. Mrs. Barbosa said that they could swale the driveway toward the wetland. Pavers could be used toward the beginning of the driveway. Mrs. Plasse asked what could be done for stormwater management. Mrs. Barbosa replied that not much can be done. Sloping the driveway towards the wetland would be the best solution. Mrs. Barbosa suggested using pavers on the first 75 feet of the driveway. Ms. Plasse suggested using 100 feet of pavers. Mr. Bousquet suggested 30 feet of pavers at the beginning of the driveway then sloping it. He said that he didn't see any flooding on the day of the inspection, which was a rainy day.

Mrs. Barbosa said that the septic system will be approved by the Board of Health on November 17th. She agrees with Jesse's suggestion of using 30 feet of pavers and swaling the driveway towards the wetland. Mrs. Brita and Mr. Pitler agreed with Mr. Bousquet's suggestion. Mrs. Barbosa said that they can also install a drain across the driveway with a grate. She added that it is a concrete box with a grate on it.

Norma Faye of 7 Union Street, an abutter to the property, was present at the hearing. Ms. Faye said that there are three brooks that flood out and cause a problem for her every March. She is concerned about this project contributing to the problem. Mr. Bousquet said that this project should not adversely affect her property. He said that there is a pipe in the street that cannot handle the water that is in the street. Ms. Plasse said that she would walk the property with Ms. Faye.

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Mr. Bousquet said that he suggests using pervious pavers for the first 50 feet of the driveway with a swale toward the wetlands. He would like to see an open top concrete box with a grate at the top (covered gutter) installed. They should use blue stone gravel for the driveway. Conservation Commission approval should be contingent upon septic system approval by the Board of Health. Ms. Faye asked Mr. Bousquet if he can guarantee her that this project will not make her flooding problems worse. He said that he can not guarantee that.

Mrs. Brita made a motion to close the hearing. Mr. Plasse seconded the motion. The motion was passed by Unanimous Vote.

Mrs. Brita made a motion to approve Mr. Whipple's project with the following conditions: 1) pavers the first 50 feet of the driveway with a swale toward the wetlands, 2) installation of an open top concrete box with a grate at the top (covered gutter), 3) blue stone gravel to be used on the driveway, 4) Board of Health approval of septic system plans. Mr. Plasse seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a vote of 5 -1.

Marc Daniels, 67 Blackstone Street, Blackstone, MA – Mr. Bousquet said that Mr. Gaucher hasn't returned his phone calls. Mr. and Ms. Plasse agreed that the letter sent to the Commission by Mr. Gaucher did not address the problems with the property. Mr. Bousquet told Mr. Daniels that he should contact Mr. Gaucher and ask him to file an after the fact Notice of Intent. He said that it looks like the property has been stabilized, but he still needs to submit a Notice of Intent. Ms. Plasse said that she believes that Mr. Gaucher hasn't had a license for the last two years. Mr. Daniels said that the property will be gone soon, but he will contact Mr. Gaucher.

Delmore Tyks, Staples Lane, Blackstone, MA – Mr. Tyks would like to build an addition that will connect the house to the barn. Mr. Bousquet told Mr. Tyks that if the work takes place within 200 feet of the river he needs to file a Notice of Intent. Mr. Tyks said that it will be a heated living space with a foundation or a slab. Mr. Bousquet suggested that he contact someone to help him file a Notice of Intent.

Ms. Plasse made a motion to accept the Minutes of the October 19th meeting. Mr. Plasse seconded the motion. The motion was passed by Unanimous Vote.

The secretary's payroll sheet was signed by all members present.

The Commission reviewed a Land Court Citation concerning the Blackstone-Chicago Corp and Lisa Drive. The members agreed that a copy should be given to the Town Administrator.

Under new business, Mrs. Brita said that there are algae complaints and fertilization issues with Veterans Park. Mr. Bousquet said that he would contact the Parks and Recreation Dept. to discuss these issues.

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Under old business, Ms. Plasse said that the Town cleaned up some of the beaver dams and they cleaned the culvert that was backing up on Mendon Street.

Mr. Bousquet made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Brita seconded the motion. The motion was passed by Unanimous Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Larue
Treasurer/Collector