

Essex Conservation Commission

January 18, 2000 - Minutes

Present: Edwin Perkins, Chairman, Robert Brophy, Wallace Bruce, Stephen Gersh, Peter Perrigo.

Meeting called to order at 7:33 p.m.

Mark Howland met with the Commission and the Planning Board for a slide presentation on the design and installation of the Howland swale and biofence. Members present from the Planning Board were Westley Burnham, Betsy Shields, and Walter Rich. Howland told the Board that he had won an EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) award for the biofence. He then showed slides covering the construction of the Howland swale from its inception to completion. He noted that the Howland swale is designed for a 100 year storm, and can go a long time without maintenance. Bruce asked Howland how he gets involved in projects. Howland said from 1980-1985 he was just in the Brockton area, then about five years ago he tried to do a few projects on the North Shore. His company has also been involved in projects in New Jersey and Connecticut. They are also asked by engineers to flag wetland areas, and to be involved in projects in the role of botanists. They manufacture the biofence themselves, and also own six wetland nurseries, growing their own wetland plants. He noted that the Howland swale fits into the 44 foot road easement required by Planning Boards. At the close of his presentation, the Board thanked Howland for coming and for the interesting information he provided.

Chairman Perkins then spoke with the members of the Planning Board regarding the need for more communication between both Boards. Westley Burnham also indicated that he feels the time has come for a site plan review. They will be presenting a watered-down version from the one proposed some time ago. He felt it was necessary because the Planning Board has had plans submitted to them which differ from the ones submitted to the Commission. He noted that the Planning Board is bound by Chapter 81 of Massachusetts General Laws. A discussion followed on the proposed site plan review.

Thomas Winkler met with the Board for an informal discussion on property at 39 Spring Street. Winkler told the Board an as-built plan was drawn by John Bennett. The bordering vegetated wetland was established by Mary Rimmer in 1994. Winkler said he would like to add some living space to the south of the building, plus a deck. He would also like to have a retaining wall. All the

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renovations are within the 100 feet buffer zone. The deck would be supported by sono tubes and posts, but will still remain a pervious area. The living area extension and two additions on the side of the dwelling will have paved foundations. The Board felt an Abbreviated Notice of Intent should be filed.

Douglas Camp, 138 Western Avenue, met with the Board to discuss the Cease and Desist Order placed on his property for stockpiling material within the buffer zone. Camp told the Board he was trying to level out his parking area on both sides to park trailers. He brought in some lypac and then received the Cease and Desist Order. Camp was advised to file an Abbreviated Notice of Intent for the project.

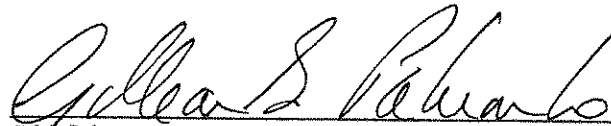
Richard O'Donnell, 48 Belcher Street - O'Donnell has called contractor Joseph Ginn to get in touch with his engineer in order to reconstruct the retention pond. Correspondence had been sent to O'Donnell regarding the run-off on to Belcher Street.

Gersh moved to approve the Minutes of the meeting of December 7, 1999, as read, seconded by Bruce, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

Brophy moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Perrigo, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Prepared by:



Gillian B. Palumbo
Administrative Clerk

Attest: