

Essex Conservation Commission

November 7, 2000 - Minutes

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

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

A request for a Certificate of Compliance was made by David Wendell, 130 Conomo Point Road,

P. Perrigo moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance to David Wendell, Trustee, of The David Wendell 1993 Revocable Trust, certifying that the work regulated by Order of Conditions D.E.P. File Number 21-285 was satisfactorily completed, seconded by R. Brophy, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

A building permit application was submitted for review by Matthew and Emilie McCarthy for the construction of a single family dwelling on Lot #5, 66 Choate Street. Chairman Perkins signed the building permit application.

A public hearing was held at 8:00 p.m. under the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, on a Notice of Intent filed by the Town of Essex Department of Public Works Board of Commissioners covering construction of a sewer line from the Gloucester boundary to Eben Creek and five pumping stations.

Jon Pearson, Project Engineer at Metcalf and Eddy, Wakefield, told the Board this is the first contract of a total of three within the Town of Essex. In order to receive funding in time, it was decided the Town be divided into three different areas. This is Contract Number 2. The Contracts are geographic except for this one, which also consists of five pumping stations at various locations. Pump Station locations are: #1 - The Red Barrel Pub, Eastern Avenue, #2 - 94 Eastern Avenue, #3 - Richdale Store, Main Street, #4 - Rear of the Essex Town Hall, and #5 - Western Avenue and Pond Street intersection. Pump Station #1 is located within the City of Gloucester boundary. This contract also includes the installation of 6,700 linear feet of gravity sewers, 3,500 linear feet of low-pressure sewers with associated grinder pumps, and 2,300 linear feet of force mains. All wetlands have been delineated within the area.

Christine Hoffman, Senior Environmental Scientist, stated they tried to avoid all wetland areas with the installation of the sewer line and pumping stations. One of the pumping stations,

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behind the Red Barrel Pub, will require some grading, but this will be in Gloucester. The remaining pumping stations are within the buffer zone, but they managed to stay out of the wetlands resource area.

Alberto Angles, Senior Project Engineer, submitted a flow chart to the Board. He told the Board at Pump Station #1, preconstruction is a hard-packed gravel driveway and parking area for the restaurant. After construction will consist of a 25'x35' building housing the generator, electrical structures, an odor control unit and the chemical storage and feed room. It will be the responsibility of the Town of Essex to maintain this building. Angles noted he has calculated the peak run-off for the 2-year and 10-year storms. Pump Station #2 is proposed for installation east of Eben Creek on the north side of Eastern Avenue. The existing conditions are a fairly open grassed area. No building is required at this site, but there will be an access drive consisting of gravel over waffled pavers. Components include a generator, electrical enclosure and an odor control unit located on individual concrete pads. They felt by using pervious material for the driveway and a good stand of trees in the area, excess run-off will be handled on site. Pump Station #3 is located behind 156 Main Street, the existing Richdale Store. The existing conditions are dirt and gravel. Post construction is similar to Pump Station #2, with a generator and an electrical facility being installed on concrete pads with a weatherproof enclosure. Odor control equipment will also be provided. The proposal is to pave the area, which will have a slight change of grade on the back portion. Access to the site will be along a paved drive from Main Street. A catch basin will collect stormwater from the new impervious surface and transfer it to an infiltration basin before final discharge over a small area of upland. The volume of run-off did not increase. Pump Station #4 is proposed for construction off Shephards Memorial Drive, adjacent to the Town Hall and the park, next to the existing concession stand. The area is grassed and surrounded by pavement on all sides. A chemical storage and feed facility will be provided at this location to control potential odor concerns. A 30'x16.5' building is proposed to house these facilities, in addition to a generator, an electrical enclosure and bathroom. The site is within the 100-year flood elevation, so slight grading will be required. The driveway will be paved. Pump Station #5 is located on a grassed triangular median at the intersection of Pond Street and Western Avenue, and will be constructed below grade. A standby generator located on a 12'x8'

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concrete pad will be enclosed in a weatherproof structure. Two electrical enclosures will be installed on a 10'x4' concrete pad to house incoming electrical service, the pump control panel automatic transfer switch and other electrical components. A 4'x4' odor control unit will also be located at the site. In addition, three manhole covers will be located on the site for access to below grade tanks and pipelines.

Derek Brown said he read the impact report and noted that at pumping station #1 it indicated that 2,000 square feet will be destroyed. He wondered if there was a written report available. Christina Hoffman told him the Notice of Intent states the species and that all impacts are temporary. There will be no permanent impacts. No replication will be required, but a restoration will be required. The top 12 inches of soil will be removed, but will be replaced with like species. The stream is not located on the USGS map, but they are considering it a perennial stream. Work will be done within 100 feet, but nothing in the resource area. The work will not encroach on the banks, the most critical areas. Donald Webster, 656R Western Avenue, said pumping station #1 is contingent upon entering an agreement with the property owners.

With no further questions from the Board or the public, S. Gersh moved to close the public hearing, seconded by P. Perrigo, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

A public hearing was held at 8:30 p.m. under the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, on a Notice of Intent filed by John Kusulas covering improvements to the driveway and footpath, and installation of a split-rail fence at 2 Andrews Street.

Attorney Frank Flatley and Justin Ayer of DeRosa Environmental Consulting, Inc., represented the applicant. J. Ayer told the Board the driveway's proposed crushed stone and sand surface will cover approximately 2,133 square feet. The footpath is currently graded at a 1:2 slope. The proposed grade is a reduction to an approximately 1:4 slope. The area of footpath to be covered with crushed stone and sand is 156 square feet. The proposed split-rail fence will border the driveway and footpath, then turn south to border a flat grassy area. All work is within the 100-foot buffer zone to the bordering vegetated wetland and the 200-foot Riverfront area. When asked a question regarding the storage of manure, J. Ayer replied that manure is going to be stored on site,

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but the storage will be on the other side of the property. After the improvements there will be nine horse stalls.

With no further questions from the Board or the public, S. Gersh moved to close the public hearing for John Kusulas, seconded by P. Perrigo, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

A public hearing was held at 8:45 p.m. under the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, on a Notice of Intent filed by Peter Van Wyck covering removal of weed growth from pond and reconfiguring pond border and slope at 9 Turtleback Road, Assessors Map 9, Parcel 11D.

Peter Van Wyck told the Board the pond is twenty-five years old, and is now showing signs of aging. There are two things he would like to do - 1) where he dug the pond the slopes are a little steep and he would like to reshape the slope, and 2) he has been getting some weed action and is hoping removal of the weeds will stop the growth. There will be no fill leaving the area of the pond; it will be just an adjustment of what is there. P. Van Wyck was questioned as to what would happen to the runoff when he starts to work on the pond, and how he proposes to stabilize the banking. P. Van Wyck said he will be excavating on the bottom of the pond and putting the material to the side to lessen the gradation. This activity will be done with a drag line. Scottie Robinson, an abutter, said she has concerns with this proposed activity. She noted the pond goes into a stream and through a culvert on to her property. She added, "I don't want to increase the flow on to my property. There is nothing to indicate there is anything growing at the moment. This pond is fifty feet from the subdivision pond. I cannot see why Peter needs to remove the weeds when there aren't any. I do not feel he should be doing anything to the pond." The Board felt a site visit should be made to the property and will meet on site on Sunday, November 12, 2000, at 8:00 a.m.

R. Brophy moved to continue the public hearing for Peter Van Wyck to November 21, 2000, at 8:15 p.m., seconded by P. Perrigo, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

The Order of Conditions was written for John Kusulas, 2 Andrews Street.

W. Bruce had a concern that the work had already been started. E. Perkins told him that work had been started under the barn,

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but the Kusulas' were told they were in the buffer zone so they stopped the work.

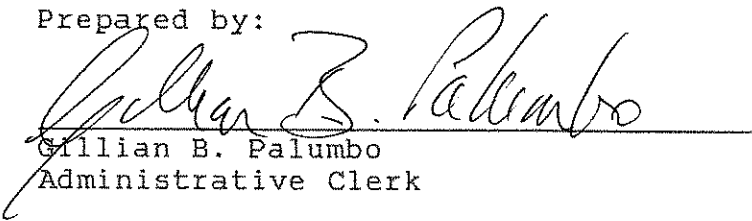
G. Stavros moved to approve the project of John Kusulas, 2 Andrews Street, for improvements to the driveway and footpath, and installation of a split-rail fence, seconded by S. Gersh, with the Board voting unanimously in favor. Special conditions to be added to the boiler plate are: 1) All other permits must be in place prior to the commencement of work, 2) a bio fence must be installed correctly and properly maintained until all ground is stabilized, and 3) an impermeable curbing must be installed along the edge of the driveway, starting from the rear corner of the barn on the north side of the driveway to the rear corner of the parking area and south opposite the south corner of the barn. Curbing shall start 6 inches below grade. Commission member Stephen Gersh will be the overseer for the project.

Conservation Commission Agent - The Board will be meeting with the Board of Selectmen on Monday, November 13, 2000, at 7:30 p.m. S. Gersh said he spoke with Cliff Ageloff of the Board of Health regarding a combination Conservation Commission Agent and Health Agent. Ageloff said at first they felt they required a full-time agent, but now may reduce the hours with the sewage project. Brendhan Zubricki was not in favor of cutting back the hours. The Board of Selectmen have been discussing hiring a person to be an agent for all the Board, i.e. Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Building Inspector, etc. A discussion followed on the hours for the Conservation Commission Agent. G. Stavros said he did not feel it was necessary to have an agent on a regular basis.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Prepared by:

  
Gillian B. Palumbo  
Administrative Clerk

Attest: