

Essex Conservation Commission

March 4, 2003 - Minutes

Present: Wallace Bruce, Chairman, Robert Brophy, Philip Caponigro, Stephen Gersh, Samuel Hoar, Shirley Singleton.

Meeting called to order at 7:37 p.m.

A public hearing was held under the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, on a Notice of Intent filed by Eloise Hodges to widen an existing gravel road off Apple Street, Assessors Map 10, Parcel 1.

John Dick of Hancock Environmental Consultants represented the applicant. John Dick told the Board Mrs. Hodges has obtained approval from the Planning Board for a two-lot subdivision on a driveway known as the Old Road to Clay Point. He noted that only one lot was being presented this evening. The proposed work is a buffer zone activity which consists of widening an existing gravel road from 12-feet to 16-feet. This activity will alter 6,892 square feet of the buffer zone. The widening of the driveway falls between two walls. There are two streams which cross Apple Street in proximity to the site. One stream flows across parcel 1 and was observed with approximately 1-inch of water flowing. A second stream crosses Apple Street south of the gas easement south of parcel 2. The stream on parcel 1 is intermittent and does not appear on the wetlands maps, but at one point intersects with tidal Mean High Water north of the property. Other than the building envelope, the remainder of the land is under a Conservation Restriction. The dwelling and septic system are outside of the buffer zone. The site is included as a habitat on the Natural Heritage Program Atlas sheet. They were notified, and John Dick is waiting for a response. Stephen Gersh asked if there was room for any swales. John Dick told him the proposed work will consist of clearing brush; the walls are the extent of the road. With a crown on the road, the edges of the road become a swale. He said he would be inclined to clear all the brush and put a siltation barrier along the walls. Stephen Gersh said he would like to have swales.

With no further questions, Stephen Gersh moved to close the public hearing for Eloise Hodges, seconded by Robert Brophy, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

Stephen Gersh moved to rescind the motion to close the public

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hearing for Eloise Hodges, seconded by Shirley Singleton, with the Board voting unanimously in favor. The Board felt they needed to keep the public hearing open to receive comments from the Natural Heritage Program and a decision from the Planning Board.

Stephen Gersh moved to continue the public hearing for Eloise Hodges to Tuesday, March 18, 2003, at 7:45 p.m., seconded by Philip Caponigro, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

A public hearing was held at 8:05 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 to replace a culvert under Island Road, Assessors Map 22, Parcels 12 and 13A.

Eric Hutchins and Tim Smith represented the Department of Public Works. Mr. Hutchins told the Board the culvert is in such poor shape it is almost ready to go. The pipe is rusting away, and the project is almost close to being an emergency. There are two culverts in the area, but D.P.W. Superintendent Damon Boutchie did not feel there would be an advantage to fixing both at once; therefore, the one in the worst shape was picked to start with. The project involves the replacement of the undersized, corroded culvert with a new 3-foot by 5-foot reinforced concrete box culvert. Mr. Hutchins noted that he has a plan that he thinks would make the neighbors happier, and that is to construct a small headwall which would prevent the potential for erosion. As a result of this change, new plans will be submitted to the Board. There will be no 2-inch to 6-inch stones on the sides; instead, it will be the existing stones, in kind, in place. The changes will be very subtle. They are going to obtain some color choices from a concrete company, and therefore may go with an earth color, as they would like it to blend in with the area. Mr. Hutchins told the Board the existing culvert goes perpendicular to the road and discharges at a point shown on the plan. He said they thought it would be more efficient by shifting the angle of the culvert and moving it approximately 9-feet, so it will be at a less severe angle going into the creek. After the culvert and roadwork is completed, they will then ask for volunteers to remove the material and the core sediment that has been washed into the road and get a shorter channel going. Dredged spoil and salvaged marsh soil will be used to fill a hole which has been artificially created. A discussion followed on the salt pan on

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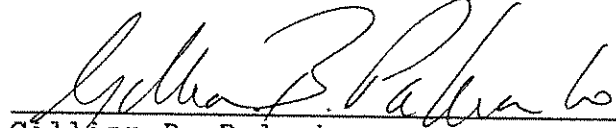
Island Road.

Stephen Gersh moved to continue the public hearing to Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at 8:25 p.m. for the Town of Essex culvert replacement at Island Road, seconded by Robert Brophy, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Prepared by:



Gillian B. Palumbo
Administrative Clerk

Attest: