

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016
6:30 P.M. – GREAT BARRINGTON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: ANDREW MANKIN – Chairman
BILL BOYER – not present
LISA BOZZUTO
JEFF COHEN
JESSICA DEZIECK
GAETAN LACHANCE
DAVID SHANAHAN

SHEP EVANS – CONSERVATION AGENT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mankin called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

WPA NOI DEP #167-0369 from Dave Inglis of Mahaiwe Harvest located on South Main Street, Map 37 Lot 93 for new agriculture in the resource area of the Green River, a NHESP habitat and a 100 year flood plain. **Continued from August 28, 2013.** Update on progress.

Nothing to report

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to continue the public hearing until February 24, 2016

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 5-0 (David Shanahan not yet present)

Emily Stockman of Stockman Associates LLC for Jeanne Chesanow, property at #28 Blue Hill Road and #5 Roger Road, Map 37 Lots 1B and 2. Response to an Enforcement Letter dated September 22, 2015 concerning possible violations of the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c.131 sec.40 and Wetland Regulations 310 CMR 10.00 and an update on the anticipated planting plan to be mutually agreed by the parties. **Continued from October 28, 2015.**

Emily Stockman said that a revised plan was submitted to Mr. Marsh who will review and respond. Emily feels that there has been good progress.

A continuance was requested.

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to continue the public hearing until February 24, 2016

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 5-0 (David Shanahan not yet present)

WPA NOI 167- 0399 from S-K Design Group, Inc. for 79 Bridge Street Realty, LLC, property located at 79 Bridge Street, Map 19 Lot 139. The project includes development of a new hotel building, parking and driveway areas, walkways and utilities. The project falls within the Riverfront Resource Area, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding and the Buffer Zone. **Continued from October 28, 2015.**

Gaetan LaChance recused himself and left the room.

Jim Scalise representing SK Design presented slides that included changes to the plan. The 'shell of the building' will remain. The annex and gym will be demolished. There will be more greenspace in the front of the building. The hotel will have 88 units with 99 parking spaces. There will be a planted edge along the river. The storm water scepter will remain the same. Jim Scalise distributed the mitigation plan to the Commission. A planting list was submitted under each area of work. Invasive management is also included. Jim Scalise explained the need for a 3% credit. Discussion followed.

Lisa Bozzuto spoke about a permanent restriction and her desire for this option rather than invasive management.

All work done in the Riverwalk area will be done by Riverwalk. This project will provide an endowment for the work.

Christine Ward said that the Riverwalk is a proven model of invasive species control due to their dedication, which will continue. This plan will allow longer invasive control and plantings.

Emily Stockman needs to review the last corrections.

Andrew Mankin said that Riverwalk is an organization that has done more for the Housatonic River than anyone. He feels that if the Commission can facilitate helping their work to be even better, it's worth it.

Jess Dezieck asked if the building can be made any smaller by removing 2 more rooms. If so, parking spaces can be removed and they will not need the 3% credit.

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to continue the public hearing until February 24, 2016

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 5-0-1 Gaetan Lachance recused

WPA RDA from Andreas Schmidt of Dynamic Energy USA on behalf of Guido's Realty, Inc. Property is located at 770 South Main Street, Map 24 Lots 16 & 17. The applicant is seeking to clear existing trees and install a solar photovoltaic array on pile driven steel piers in the Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

Andreas Schmidt explained that this array will be 515KW of capacity. He said that installation needs to occur within 100ft. of buffer. There will be steel driven piers and some trees will need to be removed.

Shep Evans, Conservation Agent, read comments from Mark Stinson.

Jess Dezieck said that she would like to see a wetland delineation. She also expressed concern regarding the removal of the trees saying that they are pertinent to wildlife even though they are dead.

It was pointed out that no mitigation or restoration was submitted.

Lisa Bozzuto said that she supports solar but also takes Conservation By-Laws seriously.

She said that she would be more in favor of the project if it was moved.

Andrew Mankin said that he would like to see the area delineated. He said that a restoration or replanting plan would be required.

Andrew added that any trees that are to be removed should be marked.

He would like to see alternatives as to where this array can be placed.

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to issue the appropriate positive determination

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 6-0

Miscellaneous:

Atty. Kathleen M. McCormick on behalf of Paul & Leslie Chesloff to discuss property at 316 Long Pond Road, Map M-193 Lot #5.

Kate McCormick explained that her clients at 316 Long Pond Road have received an offer on their property. They would like to build an addition above the garage. Ms. McCormick asked if this would require further permitting under SMA.

Andrew Mankin said that this would block the view of the mountain.

Kate McCormick said 4.1 and 2.4 of the Act talks about altering land, which this project would not.

Andrew Mankin responded that it also talks to the view. He added that the Commission has stretched its limits on what has been allowed at this property.

Kate McCormick said that this will not require removal of any trees; it will only be building up. Andrew Mankin replied that maintaining the ridgeline is the feeling of SMA.

Andrew Mankin and Shep Evans said that they will review SMA.

Kate McCormick requested that they review 4.1 and 2.4.

Rte 23 / East Mountain Rd. – last summer 2 lots were clear cut and stumped. A stream runs through it which may be an intermittent stream.

Shep Evans drafted an enforcement letter that he presented to the Commission for review.

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to instruct the agent to send an Enforcement Letter to Mr. and Mrs. McDonald.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 6-0

Gaetan LaChance announced that the next Lake Mansfield meeting will be held on 3/2/16. There is a survey on the town website regarding the options for the road. He encouraged all to participate in the survey.

Andrew Mankin announced that he will be stepping down as Chairman. A new Chairman should be decided upon at the next meeting.

Gaetan LaChance was suggested for Chairman.

Shep Evans said that he is no longer the Conservation Agent in Becket, he is now the Conservation Agent in Richmond.

Citizen speak time – none

Approval of Minutes of the December 22, 2015 Conservation Commission Meeting

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to approve the minutes of December 22, 2015 as amended

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 6-0

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Jessica Dezieck, seconded by Lisa Bozzuto, the Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cara Becker".

Cara Becker
Secretary