

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2016
6:30 P.M. – GREAT BARRINGTON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: GAETAN LACHANCE – Chairman
BILL BOYER
LISA BOZZUTO
JEFF COHEN
JESSICA DEZIECK
ANDREW MANKIN

SHEP EVANS – CONSERVATION AGENT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lachance called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

WPA NOI From Berkshire Engineering on behalf of Hapman Holdings LLC, property located at Stockbridge Rd. north of the Barrington Brewery and Crissey Farm parking area, Map 36 Lot 30C. Proposed work consists of constructing a 144kW Photovoltaic (PV) Array mounted on Techno Metal Post Screw driven helical piers, that will generate electricity for Crissey Farm and Barrington Brewery needs.

Andrew Mankin recused himself from the vote, he is the applicant.

Nick Anderson presented a map of the project displaying a 2.2 acre plot that is partially within a BBW and a flood plain. The buffer zone borders vegetative wetland and flood plain. The proposal does not call for the removal of any woody vegetation. The project will follow a helical pile method, which is a low impact use of equipment. 64 piles will fall within the 100year flood plain, 25 of them will fall within the 50ft. wetland offset. The plot is partially developed with a parking area located on the southern end.

Andrew Mankin added that this is a historically mowed site for, at minimum the last 21years. He directed the solar engineers to stay away from the northern most point on the plot in order to protect the most prolific area of wildlife.

Nick Anderson asks the Commission to weigh the existing land use, existing land maintenance vs. the renewable prosed. Nick states, "We essentially have a meadow now, and we will have a meadow going forward with the addition of renewable energy."

Andrew Mankin mentions that currently the plot is mowed 10ft into the wetland zone. His plan is to take the mow line back out of the wetland another 25ft or more if they can do so without growth shading the panels. His goal is to keep out invasive species, and he plans to remove the specific invasive species by hand. There will be no usage of herbicides.

Lisa Bozzuto raises the question of how frequently mowing will occur. Andrew Mankin replies that they mow once a year now and will see how the installation plays out and will mow as infrequently as possible.

Jeff Cohen is concerned about the project lying within the 50ft, buffer zone. Andrew Mankin explains that they will not be taking down any shrubs or trees within the buffer zone and they will be expanding the wetland by mowing farther back on the plot and enhancing the buffer.

Gaetan LaChance asks how many posts are going to be within the 50 foot buffer? Nick Anderson replies, 1319 square feet, which is the equivalent to 16.7 % of the overall aerial extent of the solar array.

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to continue the review of the project until a list of potential plantings is presented.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 5-0 unanimous

Jess Dezieck is absent for the remainder of the meeting.

WPA NOI 167- 0402 from Berkshire Engineering on behalf of Andrew & Marymar Ruggles, property at 106 Hurlburt Road, Map 31 Lot 38A. Proposed work includes demolishing and replacing the existing foundation under a barn, repair and removal of retaining walls, connecting the barn to an existing septic system and repair or replacing existing utility service for the barn and two shed structures. **Continued from May 25, 2016.**

MOTION: Andrew Mankin motions to approve the plan as presented and close the public hearing.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 5-0 unanimous

WPA NOI 167-0403 from SK Design Group, Inc. for Guido's Realty, Inc., property at 770 South Main Street, Map 24 Lot 16 & 17. Proposed work includes erection of a 363 kilowatt ground-mounted solar array on approximately 1.4 acres that will be utilized as an accessory use to the abutting Guido's Market Place building. **Administrative review of revised plan including planting list.**

The hearing has been closed but the commission is reviewing the plan to make sure that everyone is on the same page. The present commission members have all reviewed the plan.

WPA NOI 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.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin to continue the public hearing to July 28, 2016.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 5-0

WPA NOI from Berkshire Engineering on behalf of Camp Eisner URJ, property at 53 Brookside Road, Map 38 Lot 15. Proposed work is a continuation of weed management in the pond to maintain water depths for habitat, fire protection and recreational purposes. The Proposed method of harvest is to incorporate a barge –mounted Hydro-rake which severs weed plants near their roots. Collected plant matter will be de-watered, stockpiled and composted outside wetland resource areas.

Nick Anderson, Berkshire Engineering explains that the town of Stockbridge has offered to loan their Hydro-barge harvester. They plan to move the plant material 300 yards up the hill to the former dredging site. The invasive species that are to be removed are Chara and Milfoil. Nick requests that the commission approve a 5year removal plan to maintain the pond's invasives.

The commission is requesting a 5 year maintenance plan due to, when harvested Chara grows back with higher intensity.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin motions to close the public hearing and to approve the NOI as presented with the standard order of conditions, with the added condition that Eisner Pond is maintained for weed control over the next 5 years.

SECOND: Liza Bozzuto

VOTE: 5-0

Jeff Cohen is absent from the remainder of the meeting.

WPA RDA from the town of Great Barrington DPW, property located on Lake Mansfield Road, Map 10 Lot 32-78.1. Proposed work consists of replenishing the Lake Mansfield Beach Area with Beach Sand.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin makes a motion to approve a negative number 2.

SECOND: Gaetan LaChance

VOTE: 4-0 unanimous

- Emily Stockman with Stockman Associates representing Joe McDonald the owner of 328 & 326 State Rd. Great Barrington. She is here in response to a letter sent by the Commission which stated concern with clearing in a possible wetland buffer zone. Emily observed the property from the end of the winter into the growing season. She is proposing the planting of at least 12 wetland shrubs that will provide a food source for wildlife, and at least 10 native tree species. She is requesting that the property be mowed at least twice annually to keep invasive species at bay.

Shep Evans asks if the western stream is subject to flooding.

Emily Answers that it is not classified as an isolated area that is subject to flooding.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin makes a motion to approve proposed restoration land.

SECOND: Gaetan LaChance

VOTE: 4-0

Miscellaneous matters:

Review of an Enforcement Order issued to James and Margaret Larkin on March 4, 2016 pertaining to the clearing in riverfront area, bordering vegetated wetland and bordering land subject to flooding adjacent to the Green and Housatonic Rivers, Map 38 Lot 44.

Shep Evans has drafted a letter to the Larkin's to reinstate the Enforcement Order that each Commission member signed.

McAllister Reserve – Report to the Ad Hoc Committee.

There are no updates to report.

- **Emergency Certification;** Sweet Tree. 11 Pumpkin Hollow Rd. The yard floods when the Green River floods. There is a large, old, apple tree on the bank that the owner is worried will come down in the next storm and tear the banking. Sweet Tree is seeking certification from the Commission to remove the apple tree.

The Conservation Commission approved the removal of the tree and signed the certification.

- Certificate of Compliance to approve a driveway on Butternut Lane off of Lake Buel Rd.

The Conservation Commission signed the Certificate of compliance.

Citizen speak time – None

Approval of Minutes of the May 25, 2016 Conservation Commission Meeting.

Tabling the approval of May 25, 2016 meeting minutes.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Andrew Mankin, seconded by Gaetan LaChance, the Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca M. Jorczyk

