

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2015
6:30 P.M. – GREAT BARRINGTON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: ANDREW MANKIN – Chairman
 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.

Allison Dixon of the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) will make a brief presentation of their Great Barrington Stream Team “*2014 Assessment Report and Recommended Action Plan*” for the Housatonic River in Great Barrington. Allison Dixon presented a report for the Commission to read. She recapped the report saying that many who walked or paddled the Housatonic River, photographed it or journaled the “good, bad and ugly.” Some reported issues included invasives, storm water run-off and minor amounts of trash. Plans are being made to improve the river given this information. Samples taken of the river reported good river health.

WPA NOI DEP # 167-0394 from Berkshire Engineering for Navin Shah of Holiday Inn, property at 415 Stockbridge Road, Map 29 Lot 6. The applicant is seeking to expand the existing parking area to support an addition to the existing building. **Continued from May 27, 2015**

Ben Naylor, representing Berkshire Engineering, addressed past concerns regarding this project and presented and updated plan.

An invasive management plan was created along with a storm water management plan. Straw waddles and a silt fence were added to the plan.

Mr. Naylor said that the best option for expansion is still the one that was originally presented. Tim McKenna reported that the area is in compliance and Mark Stinson sent an E-mail to Shep Evans stating such, so a certificate of compliance could be issued. Paperwork is coming.

Lisa Bozzuto and Jess Dezieck said that a 5 year invasive monitoring should be required only if there is a problem. Jess Dezieck said that hand removal or cutting is preferred.

Andrew Mankin said that herbicide cannot be used.

Gaetan Lachance said that a portion of the site was buffer and accommodations were made to build on the site. This project will remove even more buffer. He expressed his dissatisfaction with this plan. Lisa Bozzuto agreed.

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to close the public hearing
SECOND: David Shanahan
VOTE: 6-0

MOTION: Jeff Cohen to approve as modified with the storm water management plan signed and stamped and impermeable surface maintained.
SECOND: David Shanahan
VOTE: 3-2-1 Andrew Mankin recused Lisa Bozzuto and Gaetan Lachance against

WPA NOI DEP # 167-0395 from Hill-Engineers, Architects, Planners, Inc. for Kimberly Daly of Berkshire Eye Center, the property is at 409 Stockbridge Road, Map 8 Lot 1.A. The applicant is seeking to convert a former bank drive-through window area into enclosed office space. This re-development project is within the 200' Riverfront area of the Housatonic River.

Shep Evans submitted a letter from Natural Heritage indicating that they have no problem with the plan.
A post construction operation and maintenance plan was submitted regarding storm water maintenance.

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to close the public hearing
SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto
VOTE: 6-0

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to approve as presented with standard conditions
SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto
VOTE: 6-0

WPA RDA from Alexander Thorp of ACCORD Engineering & Surveying for Green Houses Partners LLC, property at 27 Humphrey Street, Map 20 Lots 2, 5, 8, and 8B. The applicant is seeking to demolish and remove impervious greenhouses and other buildings and their foundations, restoring the site to match surrounding grades. The applicant is seeking a credit for a net total of 21,191 square feet of converted impervious surface in the riverfront area, which will be applied to a redevelopment project in the future.

Al Thorp explained that this is the former Dolby property. They are proposing to remove structures. A silt fence and straw waddles will be used. Invasive management may be part of a future NOI. Pavement will be removed and replaced by gravel substrate; this will require minimal excavation.

A revised narrative was provided.

A riverfront footprint credit narrative and proposed language was proposed by Mr. Thorp. Alison Dixon said that this riverfront is in bad shape and suggested that this would be a good opportunity for a riverfront cleanup. The owner agreed.

Andrew Mankin said that the Commission will be looking for a redevelopment plan that will include this.

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to close the public hearing
SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto
VOTE: 6-0

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to issue a negative #3
SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto
VOTE: 6-0

WPA RDA from Jim Stark, property at 434B Stockbridge Road, Map 36 Lot 27a. The applicant is seeking to establish drainage swales on either side of the drive way and to pave the existing gravel drive and upper parking areas which are predominantly out of the flood plane and at similar elevations to Stockbridge Road (Route 7).

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to close the public hearing
SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto
VOTE: 6-0

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to issue a negative #2
SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto
VOTE: 6-0

WPA RDA from Kelly, Granger, Parsons & Associates for Carol Emerson, property at 134 Hurlburt Road, Map 31 Lot 62. The applicant proposes to construct an upgrade to an existing septic system leaching bed located in the outer 50 ft. of the Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

Mike Parsons explained that this project is to upgrade a failing septic system. He provided the Commission with the plan.

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to close the public hearing
SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto
VOTE: 6-0

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to issue a negative #3
SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto
VOTE: 6-0

WPA NOI DEP#167-0396 from Tighe & Bond for the Great Barrington Department of Public Works, property on Front Street in the Village of Housatonic, Great Barrington. The project calls for storm drainage system improvements, on the west side of Front Street, including the elimination of two outfalls to the Housatonic River, the consolidation of several undersized pipes, some on private property, and the construction of two new River outfalls that will be accessible and maintainable. Missing drainage easements will be formalized throughout the project area.

Melissa Cody, representing Tighe & Bond, explained that there will be changes to the plan based on the site visit.

She said that this project is a drainage improvement project for a system that has an undersized capacity and flooding issues. Storm drain replacement was proposed. She also proposed a trenchless technology that will go under the Railroad to create a pipeline.

The historic mill exemption was discussed.

Deep hood sumps will be put in.

The project will take 3-4 weeks at the 'jacking' point and 2-3 months on the streets.

Gaetan Lachance asked if invasive management can be done in this area.

Joe Sokul responded that the town does not have control over this land.

Melissa said that they are waiting to hear from Natural Heritage.

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to continue the public hearing until the August 26th meeting.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 6-0

- Request from Atty. Susan Smith for applicant Bernardo E Mejia for a 3 year extension of the Order Of Conditions (DEP# 176-0366) for work at 21 North Plain Road (Map 11 Lot35) from August 10, 2015 to August 10, 2018.

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to approve the 3 year extension of the Order of Conditions

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 6-0

- Review of the Mass DOT Railroad bridges to be repaired in Great Barrington. While this project is exempt from permitting under 310 CMR 10.00, permits are being pursued from the Army Corps of Engineers (Section 404 General Permit); from the DEP (401 Water Quality Cert.) and MESA reviews through the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

This information was submitted to Shep as purely informational; the Commission has no jurisdiction.

- Distribution of 2016 MACC Membership Cards.

- Approval of Minutes of the May 27, 2015 and June 24, 2015 meetings.

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to approve the minutes from the May 27, 2015 meeting

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 6-0

MOTION: Jess Dezieck to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2015 meeting 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,



Cara Becker
Secretary