

**HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

February 18, 2014

Approved at the 3/11/14 meeting

PRESENT: Paul Alexanderson, Chair; Paulette Kuzdeba, Vice-Chair; Gordon Smith; Gary Pelissier; Edwin Matuzsko; Jim Habana Hafner; Associate Member Matthew Burak and Janice Stone, Conservation Staff. Paulette acted as Chair until Paul arrived at 7:30 PM.

1. Discussion on use of salt on roads this winter by DPW. Because of the bad weather the DPW Director was not present. He had spoken to Janice before the meeting. He explained that they are using less salt than usual because of improved procedures on the trucks, despite the fact that they are using almost no sand. The trucks now calibrate the amount of salt to drop based on speed of vehicle. The Commissioners were interested in knowing how often the trucks are calibrated, and whether there are any areas already designated in town for low salt (near wetlands, streams or wells for instance). Janice will contact Mr. Girouard and find out if he can come next meeting. **Discussion** with Five Star Transportation Bus Co. about parking near wetlands off Rocky Hill Road. Nathan and Darren Lecrenski were present to talk to the Commission. They explained that the original parking pattern designed by Berkshire Design Group did not work and they were forced to come up with a new parking pattern for the buses. They did not know the bus drivers were parking on the side of the driveway next to the wetlands, and have notified them all not to do it. The Commission asked to see a copy of the revised parking plan, the Lecrenskis will provide one. The Commissioners asked how the snow disposal was going this year, and whether they were able to fit it all on the designated areas this snowy winter. The Lecrenskis replied that the snow disposal areas were working fine. The Commission discussed the diesel fuel tank on the back loading dock, and how it had not been included in the plans. The Lecrenskis explained how it was more fuel efficient and economical if they can fuel their buses at the parking area rather than drive them all out of town for fueling. They are working with the Fire Department and Planning Board to get the permits necessary to use the double-walled diesel fuel tank. They will have a spill kit on site, have only one person do all the fueling, and there will be an automatic shut-off. They would still do all fluid changes in their Agawam shop. Edwin asked the Lecrenskis if there was a barrier of some kind in back on the south side of the lot, if the buses are parking there facing North-South now, so that they do not overhang too far into or near the wetland on that side. The Lecrenskis said they would install large visible bendable barriers to delineate the parking spaces for the buses. They will also fix the parts of the barrier on the west side that have been pushed over. The Commissioners asked them to submit a copy of the revised parking plan, and the safety procedures for the fueling. The Lecrenskis mentioned that a problem has developed with a lot of water coming onto their property from the storage facility next door to the east. The back southeastern part of the parking lot is getting too wet for driving and parking the buses. They asked what would be involved in paving the whole parking lot. The Commission explained it would involve filing a new Notice of Intent, and it would be very difficult to meet the stormwater standards, since there is no place to put a detention basin or other stormwater structure, or way to increase infiltration with the high groundwater table. There was some discussion about the cause of the flow of water from the storage site (beaver?), and what other solutions there could be. Commission will

check storage unit plans to see that things have not changed from what was approved years ago. Lecrenskis will think about how to proceed.

2. 7:45 PM Notice of Intent #170-227, continued. Filed by Pizza Hut Inc., to demolish the existing building at *424 Russell Street*, and construct a new building, parking lot and stormwater management structures. Jeremy Fennell (Epsilon Associates) and Huseyin Sevincgil (MHF Design) were present on behalf of the applicant. They stated that they had addressed the concerns from last hearing, including the O&M plan and Long Term Pollution Prevention Plan. Straw wattles or silt socks will be used instead of silt fence in the small space between wetland and work zone. They also added signs about no snow storage in the stormwater management swales and basins. If the snow piles get too high next to Route 9 they will truck it off site. They also show use of six parking places for additional snow storage if needed. Fence posts have been added in the forebays to show when they need to be cleaned out. Some changes have been made to the tree plantings, and they added more native plants. They still need to get Planning Board approval on the plans as well. Mr. Sevincgil explained the capacity of the stormwater system, and how it was sized to handle the different rainfall scenarios. Commissioners agreed to give a waiver on the 35-foot no-disturb buffer zone for this site since it is previously developed, not expanding (in fact reducing) the paved footprint, and improving the stormwater management on the site. Gary made a motion, seconded by Gordon, to approve the project, with the revised plans and additional information submitted. All voted in favor, and signed the Order. Paulette made a motion to close the hearing, Jim seconded, and all voted in favor. Janice asked Mr. Fennell to whom she should send the original Order of Conditions for recording at the Registry of Deeds. He stated to send it to him.

3. 8:15 PM Notice of Intent #170-228. Filed by University of Massachusetts Center for Agriculture for construction of a 2.4 MW solar energy generating facility on a portion of the UMass Farm off *North Maple Street*. The Commission continued the hearing on request of the applicant's consultant, New England Environmental, to the next meeting March 11th.

4. 8:00 PM Request for Certificate of Compliance for # 170-190 (Emergency Fire Access Road for new UMass Central Heating Plant). Michael Toohill from BSC Group present on behalf of client UMass. Mr. Toohill explained that they have provided "As-built" plans, with the changes shown in red. There was some change to the grading of the stormwater swale, but the main change was the construction of the electrical utility vault in the Riverfront Area. Mr. Toohill explained that when they were going to install the electrical vault underground, but when they discovered the unpermitted solid waste disposal in the parking lot, they could not put it underground. The Commission reminded Mr. Toohill that the applicant should have come back to the Commission for permission before changing plans and installing an unpermitted structure in the Riverfront Area. Janice brought up some questions and concerns about whether the Conditions for this Order had all been completed, specifically the meadow plantings and management behind the Central Heating Plant (CHP). With a few feet of snow on the ground, it was difficult to determine how the meadow was, but there seemed to be a number of shrub plantings missing from the areas along the sides of the bridge, and behind the CHP. Janice had asked DEP how to deal with this problem, and they suggested issuing a partial Certificate of Compliance, continuing those items that could not be determined or were not completed, in this case the Riverfront Area Replanting Plan. That will be included in the new Order of Conditions

UMass is requesting under Notice of Intent # 170-229. Paulette made the motion, seconded by Gary to issue a Partial Certificate of Compliance, with the Riverfront Restoration Plan Conditions continuing until confirmed as completed at a later date. All voted in favor. Janice should send the Certificate to Sara Northrup at UMass Amherst.

5. 8:15 PM Notice of Intent #170-229. Filed by University of Massachusetts Design & Construction Management for completion of landfill closure activities at *Lot 12 of the Umass Campus, off Forestry Way*. Alan Benevides from Woodard & Curran present as well as Sara Northrup of UMass. Mr. Benevides explained that the University has received approval from DEP Solid Waste to complete the closure of the unpermitted landfill buried at Lot 12 and discovered during the excavation of Lot 12 for the Central Heating Plant access road. It is about 12 acres in size (see plan in NOI). They did many test pits, determined the extent and depth of the solid waste, and proposed to close it by covering it all with at least two feet of cover. They had done a “Corrective Action Alternatives Analysis” and DEP agreed that because it was not hazardous material (mostly paper, plastic, household type waste), it did not have to be excavated but needed to be covered with the two feet of cover and a 2% slope so that water will not pond on it. The landfill was from the 1970’s, and waste is about 10-12 feet deep in some areas. Mr. Benevides suggested that there was no permanent alteration of the wetland resource areas and buffer zones since “what was parking lot before will be parking lot again, and what was green before will be vegetated (green) again.” Upon closer questioning and review of the plans however it became clear that areas presently vegetated with shrubs or trees were proposed to be cleared, the minimum cover necessary to achieve two feet of cover added and then seeded with grass seed. This included Riverfront and 35-foot buffer zone areas. All such non-parking lot surface altered areas were supposed to be shown in green on the plan, but did not include some areas close to Tan Brook although the limit of work did extend further into the vegetated areas. The Commission suggested that there should be some mitigation and improvements made to the Riverfront Area for the alteration, including replanting the areas with some native shrubs and trees. Mr. Benevides suggested that the plans to improve the stormwater management of the site were improvement enough. Upon further discussion it was noted that in a phone conference with DEP wetland staff Karen Hirschberg, Janice Stone for the Commission, and Mr. Benevides and Allyson Jacobs from Woodard & Curran, DEP argued that some (or most) of the stormwater improvements were actually required by the landfill closure plan. The plan required that surface runoff be captured and diverted from the landfill cover surface as much as possible. The new plans include four water quality swales, some of which discharge into existing stormwater swales on the south side of the lot near Tan Brook, and some of which create new discharge areas in the Riverfront on the west side and close to the BVW on the north side of the parking lot. DEP suggested that only one of the new water quality swales was not required as part of the landfill closure plan. There will be a slight increase in the amount of runoff into the northern BVW with the new plan. Mr. Benevides stated that based on their test wells, there has been no adverse impact to the Mill River from this landfill, and that they (UMass) argued to protect a few areas that were only shy by a few inches from being dug up, covered and graded to meet the two feet cover, some of this in the Mill River Riverfront Area. The landfill will continue to be monitored for the next 30 years according to the DEP approved plan. Paul asked if different maintenance would now be required of this area, to keep the amount of cover and to keep runoff off it etc. Mr. Benevides stated that it would be managed as a closed landfill, and any erosion would have to be corrected. It will be plowed in winter. Commissioners discussed with Mr. Benevides some

restoration plantings for the “green” areas, and ways to keep cars from creeping closer to the resource areas with the loss of woody vegetation. The applicant is proposing installation of truncated poles or bollards to keep cars from encroaching towards the wetlands. Commissioners stated that they needed to see a snow management plan, restoration planting plan (for all areas between the parking lot footprint and the limit of work line) and Long Term O&M plan before they could close the hearing. Mr. Benevides stated that their goal was to do the landfill closure this summer. Paulette made a motion to continue the hearing to the next meeting, March 11th, at 7 PM. Edwin seconded, and all agreed.

6. 9:00 PM Request for Determination by S&R Shafie, for confirmation of wetland boundary at *207 Russell Street*. Christian Boysen from Land Solutions present for the applicants. He explained that the wetland behind the house had been flagged last year, and Janice and Paul had gone out with him in May and reviewed the boundaries. Janice and Paul stated that they seemed good. Mr. Boysen stated that Kevin Brooks and John Roth did the delineation and vegetation plots. The back property line is the ditch in the emergent wetland. The orange line on the plan is the 35-foot no-disturb buffer zone. The green lines are the 50-foot and 100-foot buffer zones. The parcel has a rental house on it presently. It is about 2.5 acres, and about 25% is wetland or 35’ buffer. They are working on plans, but for now this is just confirmation of the wetland boundary. Gordon made the motion to approve the wetland delineation as shown on the plan. Jim seconded, and all voted in favor.

7. 9:10 PM Other Business. Minutes from January 2014. Gary made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Edwin seconded, and all voted in favor. **Updates.** CPA projects. Janice stated that the Commission had submitted three *APR projects* for approval of the CPA Committee. All were approved, including the Allard's Farm APR (135 acres off Mill Valley Road) for \$230,000. Others were Pirog (8.9 acres on Honey Pot Road and West Street, \$33,800.) and Niedbala (8.4 acres on Cemetery Road, \$14,300.). Commissioners discussed the vital importance that they show up for Town Meeting and vote for these three projects. Edwin asked if it was time for election of Conservation Commission officers. Janice was not sure, will check on it.

8. 9:15 PM ADJOURNMENT. Gary made the motion to adjourn. Gordon seconded, all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by

Janice Stone

Materials used in review and deliberation of agenda items will be found in corresponding project folder in Conservation Commission office.