

**HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**April 8, 2014**

*Approved at the 5/13/14 meeting*

PRESENT: Paul Alexanderson, Chair; Paulette Kuzdeba, Vice-Chair; Gary Pelissier; Steve Szymkowicz; Edwin Matuzsko; Jim Habana Hafner; Associate Member Matthew Burak and Janice Stone, Conservation Staff.

**1. 7 PM Discussion and Vote** Jay Myrto from RGS Energy requests minor changes in approved plans for solar array at *26 Huntington Rd* (#170-224). He asked for a few changes to the approved plan, and presented a plan showing the changes. First they proposed to reduce the size of the solar array field slightly in one corner. This area would be used temporarily for materials storage and parking, and then be returned to field. Commission agreed to change. Second they requested placement of one more pole into the 35' buffer zone. The electrical wires were originally going to be underground, under the access road, but went above ground instead. The utility that may be taking over ownership did not want underground wires. The developer wants to be able to link this project to the next solar project nearby (off Breckenridge), and needs a pole in this location to do that. It can be done without going on that side, but the preference is to keep the line as straight as possible, to maximize the field space. The Commission discussed this, and decided this would require a waiver from the bylaw, and did not approve it. Third, they request being able to move the silt fence on the west side of the access road out 7 feet for better access. The Commission agreed. Paulette made a motion to allow the first and third requests, but denied the second (request for pole in the 35' buffer zone). Gary seconded, all voted in favor.

**2. 7:20 PM Request for Determination of Applicability** by the Silvio Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge to control invasive plants using non-chemical means, within wetland buffers and the Fort River Riverfront Area off *Moody Bridge Rd*. Cynthia Boettner from the Refuge present to answer questions. She explained the area of concern, and the invasive plants that are being targeted. These are oriental bittersweet, garlic mustard and multi-flora rose. They will be hand-pulling the garlic mustard, starting within the next month, with volunteers. They will also hand-pull small woody plants. For the others, they will use chain saws and handsaws with the Youth Conservation Corps. Garlic mustard must be pulled before it blooms. For the woody plants, they should be cut before they go to seed, then stack as brush piles. Ms. Boettner asked if the Commission would allow them to dig out the multiflora rose. Commission agreed, but after digging them out, tamp down the ground and rake over it afterwards. Paulette made the motion to issue a negative determination #2, for removal of invasive plants by hand pulling and digging, with disturbed areas tamped down afterwards. Gary seconded, and all voted in favor. Ms. Boettner said she would like to give the Commission an update on the water chestnut removal project, but seeing the busy schedule, will do it sometime later. Water chestnut has been found in Hadley Cove, Russell Cove and Lake Warner.

**3. 7:30 PM Notice of Intent #170-230** filed by Mass DOT, to install sidewalks, associated ramps, crosswalks and traffic signal modifications on *Russell Street*, from South Maple Street to

the Amherst town line. Brian Sullivan, an engineer with Bayside Engineering, and Adam Shoukimas from DOT were present to explain the project and answer questions. Mr. Sullivan had conducted a site visit with a few of the Commissioners and Janice. They were especially looking at whether the guard rails could be pulled back closer to the wetlands, rather than staying out towards the road, and how the sidewalk was going to fit between the road and wetlands, telephone poles, mailboxes etc. Mr. Sullivan explained that some places, such as near Target, the guardrails could not be moved. Sometimes this was because moving them would require acquiring an additional easement, and there was not time or money in the contract for that. At the headwall of the stream near the Marriott, the guardrail will be pushed back, but cannot be put on top of the headwall. He submitted revised plans to the Commission, which showed a few places where some changes could be made to keep the sidewalks straighter and more even width for walking and maintenance. The Commission asked Mr. Sullivan about the maintenance plan for these sidewalks. Will DOT sweep Rt 9 (yes)? Will they clean the sidewalks (no)? Mr. Sullivan explained that the DOT is using mainly salt rather than sand now, so there is less sweeping necessary in the spring. All sidewalks are sloped towards the road for self-drainage. The DOT has a maintenance plan they must follow for EPA. Paulette asked if there was a specific time for sweeping. It will be prior to construction. Commission asked if DOT will plow the sidewalks, and explained that the Town has a bylaw that requires private owners to maintain their section of sidewalk. Commission asked about the coordination with the Town's plans for replacement of the old sewer main along a section of Rt 9. Mr. Sullivan said this project wouldn't happen until next spring, so the Town could do their project before the DOT contract is awarded in August. Paulette made a motion to close the hearing, and issue an Order of Conditions, referencing the newest set of plans with conditions including the following: a specific maintenance plan schedule for Rt 9 Hadley be submitted, and restake or reflag the wetlands before the start of construction work. Edwin seconded, and all voted in favor except Steve. Steve said he would not vote for it since they did not have a maintenance plan, as the Commission requires of others.

**4. 8:00 PM Request for Determination of Applicability** filed by James and Marjorie Rule, for construction of a garage in the Riverfront Area of the Connecticut River at *72 River Drive*. Mr. Rule explained that it would be between the house and present small garage, and be on part of the paved driveway. They have spoken with the Building Inspector. Commissioners asked what the floodplain elevation was at this spot, now close they were to the bank, how they were going to handle compensatory storage. They were told to find out from the Building Inspector what the 100-yr flood elevation is on their property, and to pass the compensatory storage method by him as well. Paulette made a motion to issue a positive determination #1 (work in Resource Area, needs to file a Notice of Intent). Edwin seconded. All voted in favor, except Gary who abstained.

**5. 8:15 PM Request for Determination of Applicability** filed by Marc Solomon for construction of a garage in the Riverfront Area of the Mill River, at *4 French Street*. This permit application has not been received by the Commission yet (although the legal notice was in the paper on time), so it is being continued to next month's meeting. Paulette made the motion to continue to the May meeting. Gary seconded, and all voted in favor.

**6. 8:20 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 May 13<sup>th</sup>. Paulette made the motion, seconded by Paul, all in favor.

**7. 8:22 PM Updates & Other Topics.** Janice explained about the Mitchell Family Farm APR, which is going through Amherst, with a little acreage over the line in Hadley. Janice suggested the Commission take a vote to support the project, even though the Commission is not involved and the Town will not have to pay towards the APR. Paulette made the motion to support the Mitchell Family Farm APR in Amherst and Hadley. Edwin seconded, all in favor. Annual Town Meeting discussion. Does the Commission want any handouts or a poster about the three CPA APR articles? A poster was suggested. Janice will put one together. Minutes from March 11, 2014. Paulette made the motion, seconded by Edwin, to approve the minutes as written. All voted in favor. Friends of Lake Warner. Andy Morris-Friedman was present to discuss the Lake Warner Dam CPA Town Meeting article, and ask for the Commission's support. He explained that after the dam is repaired, it will be turned over to the Friends of Lake Warner. The funding plan is \$125,000 from the state, \$100,000 from Hadley CPA, \$50,000 from the Friends' fundraising, and \$75,000 from Kestrel Land Trust. There will be a restriction placed on the deed after the dam repair requiring it to remain a dam. Kestrel lawyers are working on it. They hope to have the repairs made next year. They estimate maintenance costs at \$1,000-3,000 a year. After some discussion on wording, Paulette made the motion that the Conservation Commission votes in favor of maintaining the integrity of the North Hadley Pond through maintenance of the dam. Gary, Edwin, Paulette and Jim voted in favor. Steve and Paul abstained. Majority supports vote.

**8. 8:40 PM Adjournment.** Gary made the motion to adjourn. Paulette 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.