

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
May 23, 2012 at 5:00 PM
R. W. BLACK CENTER, LEBANON STREET

In attendance:

Members: Ruth Bleyler, Ed Chamberlain (Chair), Michael Mayor (Planning Board Liaison), Doug McIlroy, Alan Saucier

Alternates: Jim Kennedy, John Trummel

Staff: Jonathan Edwards, Vicki Smith, Barbara Prince, Hank Tenney

Others: Betsy Storrs

1. Review of Proposed Wetland and Wetland Buffer Impacts at the Etna Library and Hayes Farm Park

Jim Kennedy recused himself as he is a consultant on the project. Jim Kennedy reviewed the modifications to Plans D1-3 made in response to suggestions from the Conservation Commission at the site visit on May 21. The total wetland impact will be 1120 square feet. Jim and Jonathan discussed other iterations of the plan to demonstrate that impacts had been avoided and minimized by the current plan. Other designs would have resulted in up to 6700 square feet of wetland impact. Fourteen parking spaces are proposed. Normal patronage generates a parking demand for 11 spaces. The extra parking spaces are included for users of the trails and upper meadow. With 14 spaces, only 1 van accessible ADA compliant space is required. A provision has been made for overflow parking on the grass at the western end of the proposed parking lot.

Since the Library is on the National Register of Historic Places, it was thought that conserving other cultural artifacts is a good idea. The existing well house will be converted for use as a kiosk and the well it covers will be capped.

At present the site is being designed so that the library could expand into an area west of the proposed addition. That area cannot be used for ADA parking since the grades between the parking space and door must be kept to the required gentle grades. An effort has been made to minimize impact to the abutter to the south by not loading parking along the southern boundary.

The Commission discussed the merits of a 20 foot versus a 14 foot driveway. They concluded that the 20 foot driveway was best in terms of safety and functionality. On a motion by Michael Mayor that was seconded by John Trummel, the Commission unanimously voted in favor of the 20 foot wide driveway because it is unusually important for the safety and functionality of this public project.

The Commission found the proposal avoided and minimized wetland and wetland buffer impacts as much as practicable given the unusually important safety and functionality of this public project. The Commission found that erosion controls (strawbales, not hay) were adequate. The Commission found that the functions and values of the impacted wetlands would not be significantly reduced especially since the wetlands are annually mowed and had wells and water lines installed within. The Commission noted that impervious area was being added to the water shed and that new small stormwater wetlands will compensate for the loss of some wetland function.

On a motion made by Michael Mayor which was seconded by Alan Saucier, the DES and the Wetlands Special Exception application received unanimous support from the Conservation Commission. Chairman, Ed Chamberlain, was directed to sign the DES application.

2. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Vicki Smith, Scribe