

**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Minutes**

May 19, 2011

7:00 PM

Marlborough City Hall – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Memorial Hall

**Members Present:** Edward Clancy-Chairman, Dennis Demers, Allan White, David Williams, Lawrence Roy, Michele Higgins, and Priscilla Ryder-Conservation Officer

**Absent:** John Skarin

**Public Hearings:**

Request for Determination of Applicability

101 Cullinane Dr. - Samuel Parrish

Proposes to replace the existing stairs with new stairs within buffer zone to Ft. Meadow Reservoir.

Mr. Parrish was present and explained that he is replacing his stairs and will turn them back behind the house further away from the wetland areas. He is removing the old stairs, ties and bricks and replacing it with new stone steps with footings. Work will be 40' from the lake at the closest point. Ms. Ryder indicated she'd inspected the site and recommended approval. The Chairman closed the hearing and the Commission voted unanimously 6-0 to issue a negative determination with standard conditions about notification and stabilization.

Request for Determination of Applicability

181 Boston Post Rd. - The Best Western Royal Plaza

Proposes to do a full depth reconstruction of the existing access road to the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Conference Center. The work is near wetlands.

Brian Milluci of Whitman and Bigham was present to represent the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel. He explained that they would be doing a full depth reclamation of the driveway to the hotel; including the addition of some subdrains which will tie into existing drainage. He reviewed the plans and explained the location of the wetlands and drainage systems on the site. They are maintaining the same footprint of the existing roadway, in some areas the curbing needs to be removed and replaced. Erosion controls will be included near ponded areas and siltsacks will be installed in catchbasins during construction as needed. The project should take about 4 weeks. The Commission asked for an operation and maintenance plan (O&M plan) for the entire paved area of the hotel complex. Mr. Milluci said he would provide it for the next meeting. He also explained that the hotel uses a salt alternative that is the consistency of molassis and is biodegradable. Therefore, there is no sand to sweep or remove from catch basins. The Commission suggested this be included in the O&M plan. Mr. Milluci asked what type of erosion controls were recommended. The Commission said haybales, silt fence or straw waddles were acceptable. There being no further discussion, the Commission continued the hearing to the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting at which time the O&M plan would be reviewed and a decision rendered.

Request for Determination of Applicability  
297 Lakeshore Dr. – Joseph Dzigas

Dennis Demers abstained from this discussion as he has a direct conflict. To install a sewer connection to the rear of the house within 82 ft. of Ft. Meadow Reservoir.

Mr. Dzigas was not present, but both Mr. Clancy and Ms. Ryder had visited the site and spoken to Mr. Dzigas separately. Mr. Clancy explained the sewer connection proposed is located on a steep slope and the line will connect into the existing sewer main that runs under the lake. Erosion controls will be needed on the downhill slope of the work. The work is expected to take two days. The site will be stabilized once the work is done. There being no further questions, the Chairman closed the hearing and the Commission voted unanimously 5-0 (Dennis Demers abstained) to issue a negative determination with standard conditions for notification and stabilization.

Notice of Intent

280 Locke Dr. - Cermax Corporation/Massachusetts International Academy

Proposes to remove two parking lots and create an outdoor athletic facility to include a basketball court, tennis court and grass field. Work is proposed near wetlands.

Richard Weidknecht of Beals and Thomas, Daniel Chew from the Academy and Atty. Arthur Bergeron were present. Mr. Weidknecht indicated that the entire site is 25 acres which was formerly the Verizon Conference Center since converted to a school. He explained the overall drainage and wetland locations around the property. A drainage/wetland ditch wraps around two sides of the existing parking area which they plan to convert to a recreation field and courts.

The design proposal is for tennis courts, a basketball court and a small turf field. They will infiltrate as much water as possible since this area falls within the Water Supply Protection District. They are reducing the impervious surface by ½ acre, so this is an improvement over existing conditions. They will use straw waddles and haybales for erosion controls; there is no work within the 20' buffer zone and some work within the 50' buffer zone which is already disturbed. They have provided an O&M plan for long term maintenance and a construction O&M plan as well. They are required to file for a construction general permit from EPA, so they will be doing 14 day reports. The fields will be maintained with low fertilizer use in order not to impact the WSPD.

Mr. Clancy expressed concern with the 1:1 slopes around the edge of the recreation area and asked for input from the City Engineer on whether this would be acceptable. Mr. Weidknecht explained that the slope was 1:1, but was a relatively small slope and they would use the existing boulders on the site for stabilization. Mr. Clancy still wanted input from the City Engineer. There were

some additional questions about cut and fill, which will be a balanced site, they also asked for a construction sequence plan since the site has a bit of a grade change that could be a challenge.

As there is still information needed from the City Engineer, the hearing was continued to June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Discussion:**

1. DPW snow storage policy and discussion of filter bed reactivation – Ronald LaFreniere was present. Mr. Clancy explained that this winter the snow pile at the DPW was pushed over the brook, which is not acceptable. He has asked Mr. LaFreniere to be present to come up with a solution for next year to address this issue. Mr. LaFreniere explained that the snow dump has been in that location for many years. He acknowledged that in years when there is excessive snow, the pile does get pushed over the brook, as there is no other location to reasonably dump the snow. The Sudbury Reservoir is a back up water supply and has an extensive filter bed system that was built in the 1800's. Because the stream behind the DPW drains directly into the Sudbury Reservoir, he has approached Mr. Scannel at DCR to see if reactivation of the filter beds is possible. Mr. LaFreniere, Mr. Scannel, Mr. Clancy, Mr. Temple and Ms Priscilla visited the filter beds on May 18<sup>th</sup> to review the area. It was agreed that the DPW would investigate how the filter beds worked and set up a time to do a trial reactivation to see how it works. Mr. Scannel noted during the site visit that DCR does not have funds at this time to mow or clear the property, but they would be willing to work with the city to get volunteers to clear trails in the future, and do clearing around structures as needed to get the filter beds working and reactivated. Mr. LaFreniere showed the old plans for the filter beds and how the system was intended to work with under drains and valves etc. He and his crew will be looking out in the field to see how this will work. The benefit to the Sudbury Reservoir once the system is reactivated may be tremendous. The basins will serve as settling basins and over time may need to be cleaned.

Mr. LaFreniere showed two maps; one showing the current snow storage area at the DPW and the other showing the larger watershed and filter bed system. The Commission reviewed these. The Commission also reviewed the snow dump policy issued by DEP in 2001 which outlines when and how snow dumping during extraordinary snow events should be handled. The Commission discussed the need for the DPW to get permission from Commission before pushing snow over the brook and then activating the filter bed system if that is needed (and feasible). The Commission decided that they would see how the filter bed reactivation process works before finalizing a procedure. Mr. LaFreniere will notify the Commission when the spillway test is done, so they can observe. When a date is set the Commission will be notified.

2. Desert Natural Area Conservation Land –Trout Unlimited discussion with Bruce Osterling. Mr. Osterling phoned and asked that this be item be continued to May 19, 2011

3. Community Garden – Final plans and budget to be presented. Ms. Ryder presented a plan for 24 garden plots which are 20' x 10' at the Cider Knoll/Mello Farm Conservation Area. The water line will cost approximately \$6,000 given the cost of copper piping. The DPW will do the clearing and tilling of the property and help with setting up the plots. The DPW is still looking into the type of faucet to install on the water line. The parking lot can accommodate 10 cars. The Commission said that given the water line cost, all other variables including soil testing and layout should be investigated first. Ms. Ryder will take soil samples next week and report results back at the next meeting.

Ms. Ryder also noted that she had received input from a resident Ms. Boudrie suggesting that the Commission look at inner city locations for a Community garden, that Cider Knoll may not be the best location due to wildlife and the need to drive to this location. The Commission discussed alternative locations, but noted at this time there isn't any logical, city owned lot that would be conducive to a garden. They noted that in the future the old landfill next to the bike path may be another good location for a community garden system. They will continue to think about alternative locations and talk to other departments about this, but decided that the Commission would still pursue the Cider Knoll location as the first one, and if it is successful, will expand it to other areas.

The Commission asked Ms. Ryder to pursue the Cider Knoll community garden project and to notify the abutters and people interested in plots, but noted that depending on the outcome of the soil samples and waterline, the plots may not be ready for June planting, but may be ready late June to early July depending on how it unfolds. Ms. Ryder will follow up.

4. Conservation Commission 2010 Accomplishments and 2011 Goals – Final - Ms. Ryder will provide these for review at the next meeting.
5. Holts Grove Pond data presentation by High School – The high school students that have been studying Holts Grove Pond this past year will do their presentation on Monday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:15 at the high school. Ed Clancy and John Skarin said they would attend.

**Extension Permits:**

1. DEP 212-858 Ft. Meadow Reservoir – Weed control (expires June 11, 2011). The Commission reviewed this request and voted unanimously to provide a 3 yr extension for this weed control permit. The Hudson Permit will expire next year. They voted unanimously 6-0 to issue the extension.
2. Determination of Applicability – Automatic Extension – Letter from Aquatic Control Technology, dated April 28, 2011 RE: Mass. Permit Extension Act for 100 & 600 Nickerson Rd. The Commission reviewed this and voted to accept and put on file.

**Certificate of Compliance**

- DEP 212-1078 24 Hager St. – Full - Attorneys Rowe were both present and noted that the work for this house was completed. Ms. Ryder said she did an inspection and erosion controls have been removed and the site is stable. She noted that she couldn't find the as-built plan. Ms. Rowe indicated she could get a copy, if it wasn't found. The Commission voted unanimously 6-0 to issue a full Certificate of Compliance for this lot.
- DEP 212-972 1 Muddy Lane – Full - Ms. Ryder noted this is an old file and the work has been completed. She recommended a full Certificate of Compliance be issued. The Commission voted 6-0 to issue a full certificate for this project.

**Other Business:**

- Ms. Ryder noted that the weed survey with Aquatic Control Tech. will be held on May 27<sup>th</sup> with a treatment date of June 9<sup>th</sup> if necessary.

**Meetings** - Next Conservation meetings – June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 (Thursdays).

**Adjournment** - There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Ryder  
Conservation Officer