

**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes**

December 6, 2012, (Thursday)
Marlborough City Hall – 3rd Floor, Memorial Hall
7:00 P.M.

Members Present: John Skarin- acting Chairman, Michele Higgins, Dennis Demers, Dave Williams, Lawrence Roy and Priscilla Ryder-Conservation Officer

Absent: Edward Clancy-Chairman and Allan White

Discussion:

- **Massachusetts Water Resource Authority – Proposed Wachusett Aqueduct Pumping Station – Discussion about Flood Plain inaccuracy**

Bill Sullivan from the MWRA was present. He explained that during the design phase, they noticed that the new FEMA floodplain was not accurate. Before proceeding further with the design they wanted to be sure the Commission concurs that the floodplain maps are in error.

He provided a package including: FIRM Map, photos of the weir, Wachusett aqueduct pump station Figure 2 Draft location. The plan with the elevations show that the channels along both sides of fore bay is diverting water around the fore bay, and therefore, could not rise to the elevations shown on the FIRM maps. In addition the circular dam just below the fore bay is the control, so water is not going to back up into the fore bay area. Based on this information they have concluded that the floodplain map is incorrect.

The Commission agreed with this analysis and confirmed that the FIRM maps have not been ground truth-ed with elevations, this has been a problem and FEMA is working on updating the maps to be more accurate. The Commission agreed and voted 5-0 to have Ms. Ryder write a letter to the MWRA agreeing with their Floodplain analysis.

Mr. Sullivan indicated he'd be filing and Notice of Intent (NOI) to upgrade the pump system next to the open channel. They are required now to ensure they have full redundancy should another emergency occur like several years ago in Wellesley.

- **Country Lane pump station – DEP 212-1086 - Methuen Construction** – (Michele Higgins abstained due to the fact that she now works at the city's DPW)

Eric Salo from Methuen Construction was present to discuss construction sequence as required in the Order of Conditions.

As required in the Order of Conditions, he provided the following information:

1. Erosion control and temp fencing around pump station are proposed
2. They will be doing some exploratory digging in preparation for the work

3. In January, they plan to start doing underground work, work on force main and the piping part of the project, temporary bypass pumps will be in place and on line by end of January. New pumps will be on line Feb. and March.
4. The Valve vault excavation material will be hauled away.
5. Dewatering- onsite dewatering well is already in place. They can use this well to pump the water table down, so they can work in a dry condition. The bypass pumping would be in place once work starts. Two pumps – one is electric- lead pump. Generator at station is back up to electric. Back up pump is diesel-and they will use a sound attenuating pump. At peak time pumps will pump for about once every half hour and duration would be on a minute.
6. Then they will clean up and pull off site.
7. Return in April and May to stabilize and install planting and do the final cleanup and install the new fencing, and remove any remaining temporary measures.
8. Temporary fence will be on city property, not in the abutter's property.

Mr. Driscoll –abutter at 88 Country Lane - asked about timing of pumps and how that works. Mr. Salo explained the process with the bypass pumps. Will test at low flow period and redirect the flow and let pumps take over from there. Mr. Driscoll noted that that the rate is 100 gallons per hour if septic truck is needed. Mr. Salo said there may be a few places in the process they will need the septic trucks on hand to do the transfer.

Mrs. Driscoll asked- How loud is the pump and gas generator is very loud. Will it be as loud? Eric- you will hear it, but it should be less sound then the existing system. Mrs. Driscoll had provided a letter to the Commission dated Nov. 27th 2012 –regarding the transformer on a pole which needs to be added by National Grid. She has spoken to National Grid and the city about this and is concerned that the new transformer and possibly new pole would be a problem for her front yard. She asked why the utilities couldn't be put underground. Mr. Skarin noted that although they are concerned, the issues appear to be one with the electric company and not with the Commission. If the pole location changes, the Commission would like to know, but this work is outside the Commission's jurisdiction. Mrs. Driscoll indicated that she signed a waiver that it would look nicer like the new one on Farm Rd. which has underground service. She doesn't know why it isn't being included here? So she is concerned.

Denise Demers said underground electric – gas electric & water are already underground. The more congestion of utilities in the ground, the worse it is for repair. In theory everything must be a 10 feet separation from all the utilities. Mrs. Driscoll explained that the only utilities in the road is sewer, there is no gas no water in this location.

Mr. Salo explained that they would like to start work on January 2nd. Erosion controls will go in on December. The Commission agreed with the information presented and voted unanimously to approve the methods and information about the project presented this evening and also indicated that Methuen Construction could proceed with the project.

- **Desert Natural Area and Memorial Forest** – Burn Plan Desert Natural Area – Burn Plan – (David Williams abstained due to a conflict of interest.) The Commission reviewed the burn plan written by Joel

Carlson. They asked Ms. Ryder a few questions about the plan which they had reviewed. The Commission voted unanimously 4-0 to accept the plan as written and for Ms. Ryder to proceed to follow up with the burn process which should occur this winter.

- **DEP 212-997 - Regency at Assabet Ridge-Toll Bros – ratify violation notices.** The Commission reviewed the violation notice and discussed the follow-up with Toll Brothers. The Commission voted 5-0 to ratify the violation notices.

Certificate of Compliance:

- DEP 212-1094 79 Chase Rd. - As this project is complete, the Commission voted 5-0 to issue a full Certificate of Compliance. Ms. Ryder indicated the project came out very well.

Correspondence/Other Business:

The Commission voted unanimously 5-0 to accept the following correspondence and place on file:

- Letter from ADDA Farms - Donald Wright, dated Nov. 13, 2012 RE: List of yield and happenings at the Elm St. Conservation Land.
- E-mail from Sarah Haggerty, dated Nov. 20, 2012 RE: NHESP online Vernal Pool and Rare Species Reporting System
- Letter to Eagle Scout, Stephen Traiforos, dated Nov. 28, 2012 RE: Eagle Scout Project – Kiosk at Flagg Brook Wildlife Management Area.

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Ryder
Conservation Officer