

**MILLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Room 130, Veterans Memorial Building, 900 Main St., Millis, MA
Monday, March 31, 2014**

The meeting was brought to order at 7:30 p.m. by Dr. James Lederer, Chair.

The following members were present:

Dr. James Lederer, Ed Chisholm, Tim Chorey, Christine Gavin, Cara Krinsky, Daniel Lee, Anne Rich

Members Absent:

Others present:

Mike Carter, GCG Associates, Inc.
Chuck Adelsberger, CDM Smith Inc.
Whitney & Jeff Grandmaison, 94 Farm St.
Michele & Jim Talabach, 98 Farm St.
Ed Shluzas, 84 Acorn St.
Steve Wilkes, 90 Farm St.
Meg Wilkes, 90 Farm St.
Daniel S. Callahan, 97 Farm St.
John Dmytryck, 120 Farm St.
Margaret Maguire, 76 Farm St.
Jeff Maguire, 76 Farm St.
Charles Vecchi, Selectman
Charles Aspinwall, Town Administrator
Nathan Maltinksy, 431 Exchange St.
Linda Miga, 100 Farm St.
Robert Fox, 275 Turnpike St., Canton, MA 02021

**DEP FILE #CE225-0380 - NOTICE OF INTENT, PUBLIC HEARING
ROSENFELD ROAD - DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
DPW**

The public hearing was opened at 7:30 p.m. with notice being read by Dr. Lederer, Chair.

Mr. Michael Carter, representing the Town of Millis DPW, presented the application and plans. He described the existing conditions. The limit of the project begins at approximately 590 feet south from the intersection of Rosenfeld Road and Union Street, and continues south to the cul-de-sac at the end of Rosenfeld Road, he said. Mr. Carter stated that the existing drainage system is under sized, and as a result, all excess water flows to the existing discharge point, first collecting on the residential properties to the west of Rosenfeld Road. According to Mr. Carter, the proposed development will capture this water and provide flood relief for the existing homeowners on Myrtle Street, while still utilizing the existing discharge point.

Mr. Carter described the project which proposes to improve the existing drainage on Rosenfeld Road to alleviate present flooding issues along the western side of the road. The project consists of the installation of two new catch basins, the replacement of three failed catch basins, minor road construction and replacement of approximately 505 linear feet of storm drain, including the culvert at 11 and 13 Rosenfeld Road. Mr. Carter stated that the outlet of the

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proposed system is an existing discharge, and no additional flow is anticipated, therefore there will be no increase in impervious surfaces. The proposed work, he said, includes cleaning and restoring the existing swale. The swale will be cleaned out using hand tools only so there is no adverse effect to the resource area. Trees within the drainage easements will be removed for construction.

Mr. Carter described the resource areas involved. A vegetated wetland system is located to the west of the discharge points, a watershed to Richardson's Pond. The proposed area of construction has been determined to be located outside of Zone X and there is no work proposed within a Zone II area, he said. Erosion controls were discussed.

Mr. Carter stated that there is a warrant article for spring town meeting in the hopes of funding the project. Mr. Aspinwall stated that, if approved, the work would begin July 1st or after.

There was discussion regarding the velocity of water runoff. Mr. Chisholm expressed concern regarding flooding on Ridge Street. Mr. Carter will provide calculations for the 100-year flood and impacts to Richardson's Pond flood plain.

On a motion made by Mr. Chorey, seconded by Ms. Rich, it was voted unanimously to continue the public hearing at 7:49 p.m. to Monday, April 28, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

Town Athletic Fields

Informal Discussion

Chuck Adelsberger-CDM Smith

Mr. Adelsberger discussed the Athletic Fields Feasibility Study and the status on what has been done so far. He stated that the existing fields have been reviewed and there is extensive damage to these fields due to the amount of use. There are many reasons for recreation facility improvements, he said, which include limited playing surfaces and overuse; safety of town residents, youth athletes and students; restrictions in sporting events due to facility conditions. There have been communications and engagement with the community, Mr. Adelsberger stated, with meetings being held with departments, committees and community groups. There is also an on-line Fields Feasibility Study Community Survey on the Town's website which residents can take.

Mr. Adelsberger presented four of the concept plans created. Commission member, Ed Chisholm, did walk the sites with Mr. Adelsberger as there are wetlands on the properties. There are potential wetland concerns near current and potential recreation facilities, he said. There are no formal applications being made at this time. The wetlands will be flagged and they will come back for determination of the wetland lines, Mr. Adelsberger stated.

Mr. Chorey expressed concern over the temperature of water runoff from a synthetic field (as proposed) in the summer months when the water is very warm. Mr. Adelsberger will get further information on this issue.

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The goal of the project is to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen by spring town meeting. A warrant article is scheduled for moving forward with the project, Mr. Adelsberger stated.

The Commission thanked Mr. Adelsberger for his presentation.

**DEP FILE #CE225-0381 - NOTICE OF INTENT, PUBLIC HEARING
HICKORY HILLS SUBDIVISION
ACORN STREET & FARM STREET**

The public hearing was opened at 8:08 p.m. with notice being read by Dr. Lederer, Chair.

Mr. Merrikin, representing the applicant, 400 Old Post LLC, presented the application and plans for work relative to the proposed development of a single-family residential subdivision known as Hickory Hills. The site is entirely wooded, mostly upland, and is comprised of approximately 34.9 acres of land. Also included in the development, Mr. Merrikin said, is offsite work on areas around the subdivision including within Farm Street and within and along Acorn Street, which are existing public roadways.

Mr. Merrikin stated that there are three areas of jurisdictional work and that 99% of work to be done is in upland areas. Mr. Merrikin described the three areas:

Work proposed within Wetlands Protection Act and/or Wetlands Protection Bylaw
Jurisdictional Areas:

- (1) Farm Street sewer work for extension of an existing sewer main from Farm Street to the intersection of Cedar Street. The beginning of the work is in the buffer zone. This is a limited project.
- (2) Acorn Street stormwater system improvements which includes work within the buffer zone of a bordering vegetated wetland which lies on the opposite side of Acorn Street.
- (3) Work within the buffer zone of the isolated vegetated wetland for installation of storm drain inlet. Applicant required to maintain existing drainage patterns.

Mr. Merrikin presented the drainage design system in the subdivision, along with the details on the work proposed in the above-mentioned areas. He stated that the subdivision drainage design meets or exceeds all Stormwater Management standards. Acorn Street runoff will be dramatically alleviated, he said. The Homeowner's Association will be required to maintain the drainage system. This document will be submitted to the Planning Board in a couple of days for review by Town Counsel, he stated. A comprehensive Operations & Maintenance Plan has also been submitted, Mr. Merrikin said. Roof runoff infiltration systems will be installed on each home. Mr. Merrikin discussed the soil characterizations on site.

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Dr. Lederer referenced an email from Cara Sanford, dated February 26, 2014, wherein she asked about an Open Space plan. Mr. Merrikin stated that this subdivision will incorporate open space; there will be wooded lots – “not clear cut,” he said. Open Space design provisions “cram lots” on the subdivision and that is not what the applicant wants. In addition, the Planning Board requires 26-foot width roadways, he said. Mr. Merrikin will provide more data on tree clearing, as the Planning Board also wanted this information, however, there will be “no explicit limit of clearing,” he said. Mr. Merrikin will outline this information in a letter to the Town. Mr. Merrikin stated that they also filed an ENF application and MEPA concluded that no further review was required.

Mr. Aspinwall asked Mr. Merrikin if the applicant needed an easement to discharge onto Dmytryck’s property. Mr. Merrikin responded that an easement was not warranted as there is a “sheet flow condition” through a wooded valley which will stay the same as it is today.

Ms. Whitney Grandmaison discussed a letter written by herself, Jeff Grandmaison, Meg Wilkes and Steve Wilkes, dated March 31, 2014. Amongst other concerns/issues, she expressed concern over “Quality of Life” issues where this is such a large, long-term project. Mr. Merrikin discussed the Phasing of the project and project schedule. The first phase, he said, includes most of the major infrastructure and stormwater systems. He stated that the work would start as soon as they get the appropriate approvals. The applicant intends to begin construction this summer. The Farm Street work should be completed by the end of 2014 and the subdivision’s roadway infrastructure, including the work along Acorn Street and the isolated wetland’s stormwater pipeline are expected to be completed by the summer of 2015, he said. Phase II would be the house construction and that will be a longer phase, he said, depending on how fast the homes sell.

Ms. Grandmaison asked if there was any discussion regarding reducing the amount of lots. Mr. Merrikin stated that the applicant “needs to develop the land as cost effectively as possible.” Each lot has a ½ to ¾ of an acre of land, he said. Mr. Fox stated that he wants to leave as many trees as he can. He said that he would be willing to meet with the abutters on site to discuss tree removal. Ms. Grandmaison expressed concern over wildlife and animals being displaced.

Mr. Chorey expressed concern over inspections of erosion controls during construction. He requested that the inspector not be the person building the project. Mr. Merrikin said that the general contractor would perform the inspections and that the information would be in the drainage documents. He will also provide erosion controls on the revised plans, he stated.

The Commission would like their consultant, Ms. Barbara Thissell P.E., to review the application and plans at the applicant’s expense. Mr. Merrikin stated that the applicant is agreeable to providing funds for Ms. Thissell’s review.

On a motion made by Ms. Rich, seconded by Mr. Lee, it was voted unanimously at 9:22 p.m. to continue the public hearing to Monday, April 28, 2014, 7:45 p.m.

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OTHER BUSINESS:

Girl Scout Troop 74941

Community Garden Proposal

Dr. Lederer emailed Ms. O’Gara stating that he and the Tangerini’s would meet with the scouts on the property to discuss the use of the land for a community garden.

Minutes

On a motion made by Mr. Chisholm, seconded by Ms. Rich, the minutes from February 24, 2014, were unanimously approved as written.

Scheduled Conservation Commission Meetings: April 28, 2014

There being no further business, on a motion made by Mr. Lee, seconded by Ms. Rich, and voted unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Camille Standley
Department Assistant*