



Office of the  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Town of Townsend,  
272 Main Street  
Townsend, Massachusetts 01469

**James Deroian, Co-Chairman**

**Veronica Kell, Clerk**

**John Hussey**

Leslie W. Gabriliska,

*Conservation Agent*

**Emily Norton, Co-Chairman**

**Jennifer Pettit**

**Stephen Marshall**

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**Minutes**  
**Selectmen's Chambers**  
**Memorial Hall**

***Wednesday, February 4, 2015 @ 7:00 P.M.***

**1.0 Preliminaries**

**1.1. Open Meeting** – Co-Chairman Emily Norton opened the meeting at 7:30 pm

**1.2. Roll Call** – Co-Chairman Emily Norton (EN), Co-Chairman James Deroian (JD), John Hussey (JH) and Veronica Kell (VK) were present. Jennifer Pettit and Stephen Marshall were absent. Conservation Agent Leslie Gabriliska (LG) was present.

**1.3 Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting**

**4.3 Volunteer Response Form: Christine Vitale, West Meadow Rd.**

VK motioned to add 4.3 to the agenda, seconded by JD, all in favor.

**1.4 Chair's Report** – EN reported that the follow up meeting with TAYSA to review the Memorandum of Understanding was cancelled due to a snowstorm

**1.5 Administrator/Agent Report** – LG reported that she was trying to arrange to have the Kinder Morgan Open House held in Townsend. It was originally scheduled to be held in Fitchburg, though no pipeline was scheduled to be constructed in Fitchburg. The Open House was cancelled due to snow.

**1.6 Review of Minutes** – none.

**2.0 Hearings and Appointments**

**2.1 7:45 Notice of Intent (DEP #308-622)**

**Applicant: Joan Landers, Superintendent, North Middlesex Regional H.S.**

**Location: 19 Main Street**

**Project: construction of new high school and associated site development, followed by the demolition of the existing high school. A portion of the proposed work is within the 100 ft. buffer zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland.**

EN reopened the hearing at 7:48 pm. Erin Prestileo and John Hart, civil engineers with SMMA, and Peter Collins, Project Manager with Heery International, represented the applicant. Applicant and North Middlesex Regional School District Superintendent Joan Landers, NMRHS Building Committee Chair Robert Templeton, and NMRHS Building Committee member Heide Messing were present.

Ms. Prestileo updated the Commission on the changes requested or discussed by the Commission at the January 21<sup>st</sup> hearing. There is now a perimeter drain around the temporary parking lot, which will be graded with a slight slope to drain stormwater toward the perimeter.

They discussed snow storage. It will not be stored in the bioretention swales, but will be pushed between the back of the curbing and the swales – a space of about 5 feet. It will then be removed to the open snow storage areas along the access road to the northwest. JD and JH expressed a high level of concern for the ability of the school to handle the snow with the proposed parking lot configuration, especially in light of the extensive snowfall seen this year and in recent years.

EN felt that having high snow piles within the parking lot area is an “accident waiting to happen”, as teenagers walk with their heads down, totally absorbed by their smart phones. She said that there cannot be any snow piles in the parking area intersections. Mr. Hart stated that they will pile snow up to 5 ft., then dump it in the proposed locations shown on the plan. EN asked JH if he thought that the 5’ wide space was too narrow. He felt that the proposed plan was inadequate.

Selectman Sue Lisio stated that Oscar Hills, NMRSD Director of Building and Grounds, has been involved in the planning of the new school since its inception. She was confident that the school has the equipment and manpower to be able to handle the snow. She suggested to Ms. Prestileo that perhaps a manual could be developed to provide maintenance staff in the future with guidance as to snow plowing and storage requirements.

A guard rail has been proposed to prevent unauthorized access to the wetland behind the garage. The area behind the garage must be kept partially open as the well for the field irrigation system is located in the wetland.

The outlet for the stormwater system that flows into the southeastern wetland could not be pulled back. The scope of work did not include any improvements at the existing maintenance garage. They have proposed to remove fewer trees than on the original plan

Discussion continued about the grass area. The Commission will be consulted regarding the proposed seed mix. They also discussed the diesel storage tank located in the upper level of the garage. Bollards will be installed around the building to protect it. The Commission then reviewed the proposed special conditions as drafted by LG.

JD motioned to issue an Order of Conditions with the following special conditions:

1. An updated Operation & Maintenance Plan inspection checklist to include the bio-retention, pavement, and grass areas shall be provided to the Conservation Commission prior to the start of construction.
2. All references to hay or hay bales shall be replaced with straw or straw wattles on the plans and details.
3. In the interest of protecting water resources, only organic fertilizers shall be used on the site.
4. No chemical pesticides, herbicides or insecticides may be used on the site.
5. The reference on the plan, “35 ft. buffer zone” shall be changed to “35 ft. No Disturb buffer zone” prior to the start of construction.
6. As stated in the Notice of Intent Operation and Maintenance Plan, no snow shall be stored in the bioretention areas
7. The bioretention areas shall be planted and maintained in accordance with the DEP Volume 2, Chapter 2: Structural BMP Specifications for the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook, Bioretention Areas

seconded by VK, there was then further discussion on the motion, JH asked about the calibration of the pH system of the science laboratories holding tank. It is believed to be recalibrated every 12 years; however, Oscar Hills was not present to provide a definitive response. Mr. Collins said that treatment of the holding tank system will be contracted out. Ms. Messing stated that it is a very

sophisticated system, as it monitors the pH constantly, with alarms designed to go off if there are problems.

After this discussion, the Commission voted on the motion. The motion passed, all in favor. JH motioned to close the hearing at 8:33 pm., seconded by JD, all in favor.

### **3.0 Work Session**

**3.1 ZBA Referral Notice: Riverbank Development, LLC, 13 Elm St., for a variance for the construction of a new fire station** – LG explained that the request for a variance to a side yard setback. There were no wetland issues involved. The Commission responded “no comment”.

**3.2 Bills payable: registration for 3 Commissioners and Agent to attend the MACC 2015 Annual Environmental Conference at College of the Holy Cross, Worcester on Saturday, 2/28/15** – JH motioned to authorize payment in the amount of \$460 from the Wetlands Protection Act fund, seconded by VK, all in favor.

### **4.0 Correspondence -**

**4.1 ZBA Revised legal notice of public hearing for North Middlesex Regional School District for an appeal/variance: Tuesday, February 10, 6 pm, in Memorial Hall** – noted.

**4.2 Resignation of Commissioner Mary Small & Town Clerk Resignation Notice: Mary Small** – noted. The Commission expressed regret at MS’ decision because of the impact her absence will have; however, they noted their appreciation for her many years of volunteer service.

**4.3 Volunteer Response Form: Christine Vitale, West Meadow Rd.** – discussed. JD will call Ms. Vitale

**5.0 Items for discussion at the next meeting** – review of 2014 Annual Report

### **6.0 Advertisements and Conferences**

**6.1 Townsend Recreation Open House, Sunday, February 8, 1-4, Townsend Town Hall** - VK inquired whether it was still possible to attend the Open House. LG was under the impression that there was still time to register; however, she suggested that VK contact Recreation Director Emy Hoff to confirm.

**7.0 Next meeting – Wednesday, February 18, 2015 @ 7:00 pm**

**8.0 Adjournment** – JH motioned to adjourn at 8:33 pm., seconded by JD, all in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Leslie W. Gabrielska, Conservation Agent.