



TOWN OF WESTBOROUGH
MASSACHUSETTS
Conservation Commission

Forbes Municipal Building
45 West Main St.
Westborough, MA 01581
(508) 366-3014

DATE: April 5, 2016

RE: Minutes of Meeting of March 8, 2016

Members Present: Chairman Koenigsberg, Member Buckalew, Member Kelley, Member Lundberg, Member Kessler, Member Cushing,
Absent Members: Member Donley

*7:00pm – Hearing – Request for Determination of Applicability – Department of Public Works
275 Turnpike Road.*

Materials submitted with this filing are a Request for Determination of Applicability entitled “Indian Meadows Well Transmission Main and Sewer Line” dated February 2016.

Member Koenigsberg read the legal notice for 275 Turnpike Road.

Town Engineer, Carl Balduf was present to review the application and associated scope of work. The Town owns operates the Indian Meadows Well located off 275 Turnpike Road. Currently, the raw water from the well gets treated at the Oak Street Water Purification Plant. Unfortunately, this well has considerable natural contaminants in high volume and the Oak Street Water Purification Plant is not large enough to remove all of the contaminants. The Town is planning on installing a new raw water line that will transport the water to the larger Fisher Street water Purification Plant. The Fisher Street station is much more equipped to handle filtering the raw water. The raw water will come down the access road for 275 Turnpike Road, cross under Route 9, proceed through Speedway Plaza until it reaches Otis Street. From Otis Street the water main will connects into an existing line where the Town has an easement through Astra’s property then to the Fisher Street Water Purification Plant. The pipe will be an 8 in diameter pipe 5 ft deep. The Town will also be replacing a double culvert that is under the access road for 275 Turnpike Road this replacement will be in-kind

Member Koenigsberg asked Mr. Balduf to explain the culvert replacement portion of the project. Tom Toucha with Aecom showed the Commission a plan displaying where the wetland is at 275 Turnpike Road. Mr. Toucha explained that this is a straight forward in-kind replacement of two existing failed culverts. The existing access road is failing above the culverts and the new water main is being installed underneath them so now is the appropriate time to replace them.

Member Kessler asked when the project would start and how long it would take. Mr. Balduf stated as soon as they can and hopefully not longer than a month

Member Buckalew asked about the quality of water coming out and why it needed to be run to Fisher Street. Mr. Balduf explained the water is full of Iron and other impurities that are not easy for Otis Street to remove. Maybe years down the road the Town will have to pull some cleaning of the new pipe but that will be a long time from now.

Member Buckalew motioned to issue a Negative 3 Determination of Applicability with Special Conditions to the Town of Westborough Department of Public Works for the proposed Indian Meadows Well Transmission Line located at 275 Turnpike Road, as well as, various other locations which are non-jurisdictional seconded by member Kelley, Motion passes 6-0.

Member Buckalew motioned to issue an Extension Permit for (DEP File# 332-797) for Jeffrey Curtis, 21A Water Street seconded by Member Kelley motion passes 6-0

7:15pm – Hearing – Request for Determination of Applicability –Department of Public Works adjacent to Lake Chauncy parking lot Assessor’s Map 34, Parcel 98.

Materials submitted with this filing are a Request for Determination of Applicability for Lyman Street and a plan entitled “Request For Determination of Applicability Site Plan Proposed Tennis Court Lyman Street (Map 34, Parcel 98)” dated February 24, 2016.

The Town Engineer Carl Balduf Explained to the Commission the proposed project that will take place on Map 34, Parcel 98. The Recreation Department would like to install 2 new tennis courts on the southerly side of the parking lot for Lake Chauncy. This would consist of the removal of a few trees but most of this area is mowed regularly.

Member Koenigsberg asked how the area was going to be filled and graded. Mr. Story from DPW explained that they will only excavate the area where the court is going to go and that they will be placing regrinds from the Route 30 paving project in the tennis court footprint only.

Member Buckalew asked if the area where the tennis court was staked so the Commission could view the area. The Conservation Officer stated that this was staked however they may need to be re-staked from the snow.

Member Kelley asked if there is going to be a grade difference. Mr. Story stated not really the courts will be a similar grade from the parking lot.

Member Koenigsberg asked if there were any stormwater measures being addressed when they install the courts. Mr. Balduf stated there is a basin they are going to create to contain the stormwater in addition to cleaning the existing drainage swale along Lyman Street.

Member Buckalew asked about how many trees are going to be removed. Mr. Balduf stated less than a dozen trees are going to be taken down. Member Kessler stated that the trees represent habitat for a certain Crow species and why do we need to take this habitat away to construct the

tennis courts. Mr. Storey explained that this area is prime location for the proposed tennis courts due to its close proximity to adjacent recreational areas and there is a high demand for this type of recreational use in Town.

Roger Barns from 5 Canfield Street stated that this proposal is behind his house and he would like to know what the necessity of needing another tennis court in Town. The Recreation Director, Mr. Grady stated that based on other towns Westborough doesn't have as many courts available and that Haskell Street court are the only tennis court with lights on it and that the other courts in front of the school need to be fixed and that tennis is extremely popular in Town.

Valarie Wilkinson, 17 Endicott Drive asked if that is the only place where they can put a tennis court. The Commission explained that the hearing is not really granting the use or build out of a tennis court the Commission is only agreeing on where the wetlands are and how to locate the court within the property boundaries.

The Conservation Officer explained to the public where the tennis courts were actually going to be located in hopes to relieving any confusion.

Warren Anderson of 7 Chauncy Street would like to draw attention to the fact that the need for this tennis court may not outweigh the destruction of habitat. The state hospital land is available and should be utilized and it would be a shame to use this area for the tennis courts when it's great habitat for birds.

Member Buckalew stated that maybe they could move the tennis courts move more forward toward the pavement.

Member Koenigsberg stated we need to know what trees are being used as nesting and how many will need to come down in order to shift the location of the court. Member Kessler stated that there will be no difference no matter where that area is the birds are going to be affected no matter what.

Member Cushing asked if the board could do a site walk to readdress the habitat.

The Conservation Officer stated that the Commission should go out and have a site walk for this project.

Member Buckalew motioned to continue the hearing until next month seconded by member Kelley motion passes 5-0-1 member Lundberg abstained. The Commission scheduled a site walk for March 19th at 10AM.

7:30pm – Discussion – State Hospital Memorandum of Understanding.

Member Kessler stated that the MOU has some corrections made even as of this morning and he handed out a copy of the newest addition. Member Kessler then showed the Commission a small map of the division of parcels at the State Hospital. Member Kessler stated there has been some discussion on waiting to transfer Parcel C due to an easement. Parcel B will remain owned by the Town and may have facilities built upon it. Parcel A3 will be maintained by the Town and Earl

Story has removed most of the bittersweet from this area. Parcel E has habitat possibly for rare and endangered animals or plant species. The roadways and utility easements will all be maintained per their current function. This is not a binding contract but they are suggestive uses and stewardships as to what may be happening on the property.

Member Kessler read Article 13 from the warrant for the Annual 2016 Town Meeting. Member Kessler explained the distinction between the conservation lands and the municipal lands.

Member Lundberg asked what the reason for doing an MOU because it seems that after Town Meeting votes on the transfer much of this language becomes null and void. Member Kessler stated that its more just to document the uses on the property from here on out for the Conservation Commission.

Member Buckalew motion to endorse the State Hospital Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission regarding Parcels A1, A2, A3, and E. The Parcels are to be used for conservation, open space, passive and/or active recreation, playground, and/or other public and/or community purposes seconded by Member Kelley motion passes 6-0.

Member Buckalew motioned to support the Town meeting article 13 in care of the State hospital parcels seconded by Member Kelley, motion passes 6-0.

7:45pm – Discussion – Bowman Conservation Area Trail Names.

Member Buckalew motioned to approve the Bowman Conservation Area Trail Names as provided by the Westborough Community Land Trust, seconded by Member Kelley, motion passes 6-0.

Other Business:

The Conservation Officer talked to the Westborough Land Trust Community to get help to pay for the police detail at Sandra Pond they agreed to help.

The Conservation Officer explained to the Commission about the fireworks display at Lake Chauncy for the 300th Anniversary.

The Bowman West Conservation Area is currently being thinned of invasive plants and trees and this portion of the project should be finished within the next few days. There have been a few complaints and the Conservation Officer has handled them very quickly and efficiently. One of the complaints was a resident that was unhappy with the clearing and after discussing it with the Conservation Officer has come to understand the reasoning behind this cutting also the Conservation Officer got some supplemental plantings for that resident.

Member Buckalew motioned to adjourn seconded by Member Kelley, motion passes 6-0.
Time of Adjournment_____8:39pm_____

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheri Brown, Administrative Assistant

Chairman Koenigsberg