

## GROTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Location: Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Members Present: John Smigelski (Chair) (Absent), Peter Morrison (Vice Chair), Olin Lathrop (Clerk), Susan Black, Bruce Easom, Eileen McHugh, Marshall Giguere

Others Present: Takashi Tada (Conservation Administrator)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Acting Chairman.

#### General Business:

Groton School-North Driveway, MasssDEP#169-1131: Atty. Collins requested an extension for the Order of Conditions and reminded the Commission of the gift of land (formerly owned by DeCilio) to the Town by the Groton School. M. Giguere made a motion to approve a three-year extension for Groton School North Driveway MassDEP#169-1131. S. Black seconded and the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Academy Hill South Entrance, MassDEP#169-917: M. Giguere made a motion to issue a three-year extension of the Order of Conditions under the Wetlands Protection Act to Academy Hill South Entrance, MassDEP #179-917. The motion was seconded by B. Easom and the vote was unanimous (6-0).

#### 2-8 Hollis Street, MassDEP#169-1153 Order of Conditions

M. Giguere made a motion to issue an Order of Conditions under the Wetland Protection Act. The motion was seconded by E. McHugh and the vote was unanimous (6-0).

M. Giguere made a motion to issue an Order of Conditions under the Bylaw. B. Easom seconded and the vote passed 5-1 with E. McHugh voting against.

B. Easom made a motion to amend condition #9. The motion was seconded by O. Lathrop and the passed 5-1 with E. McHugh voting against.

#### 7:20 p.m. – Public Hearing: RDA, Raddin Road Forestry Access (Marsh Family Trust)

Owner/Applicant: Bennett and Sue Black, George Marsh

S. Black recused herself as co-applicant/rep.

B. Black said they began clearing a new access in January to relocate and straighten out the forestry access road and remove vegetation and add gravel.

O. Lathrop asked about the grade and fill. B. Black said it would be gravel with loam shoulders and reseeded.

O. Lathrop asked about erosion controls. B. Black said the work near the pond is already done.

B. Easom said it looks messy but there are no resource impacts. He said the new road is further from the pond.

B. Easom asked about the remaining work that needs to be done in the buffer zone. B. Black said additional cleanup, smoothing of grades and reseeding.

B. Easom asked for erosion controls to protect the pond, noting that he did not have a preference between a silt fence or wattles.

M. Giguere asked about the trees/stumps, which will be moved off site. He said he agrees with the need to improve the access and also the need to install erosion controls.

E. McHugh said she agreed overall and suggested starting the gravel at Raddin Road to act as a track pad and keep dirt off the road, etc.

P. Morrison asked whether the old road is to be abandoned. G. Marsh said it would not be as it still serves as an access for the family (by walking, horse, bike or car).

B. Easom suggested initiating a fine of perhaps \$25 for trespassing.

T. Tada said there is an enforcement protocol.

O. Lathrop said he is not in favor of a fine and compared the situation to 116 Boston Road.

Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by E. McHugh to issue a fine of \$25 for trespassing, the vote **Failed** (1 – 5) with B. Easom being the sole vote in favor.

Upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by E. McHugh, it was

VOTED: to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability (#3) for the Forestry Access, Raddin Road (Marsh Family Trust) with following conditions:

- 1) There shall be erosion control along the pond;
- 2) Gravel installation shall begin at Raddin Road.

The vote was unanimous (6-0).

7:35 p.m. – Public Hearing: NOI Redevelopment , 788 Boston Road (NJLJ Properties LLC),  
Bylaw #2017-02

Applicant: Bruce Ringwall, GPR

Owner: Mickey Higgins and Frank Hartnett, NJLJ LLC

Bruce Ringwall presented the site background and existing conditions (drainage/topography), noting that under the local wetland bylaw 481 s.f. falls within jurisdiction.

-Sheet C.5.1 has the erosion control plan.

-Approximately five acres of surrounding National Grid land drains to the property's low point.

-1,440 s.f. proposed to be replicated (3:1) about four feet above the existing wetland elevation; ground water is below the existing wetland.

-Replication requirements are to dig out two feet and bring in a base layer of fine material to retain water in the replication area.

-Replication area should be fed with clear roof water and treated runoff (80% TSS removal by the proposed tree box filters).

-install the sediment forebay first, will provide additional treatment;

-there will be some overland flow from the south;

-there is an estimate of four inches of water in a one inch storm event.

-There is a planting plan in the NOI. All work will be done by hand and over seeded with a N.E. wet mix.

B. Easom asked about the erosion control line along the south boundary. B. Ringwall said this is to prevent offsite erosion (the site slopes down toward the National Grid land).

B. Easom said there would be runoff from the road/pavement that will be carrying salt, noting that this is not a good idea because salt can't be removed. B. Ringwall said in a Zone 3, it is a requirement that 80% TSS be removed. He said they are using tree box filters in every location (Infiltrerra/Contech pre-fab) plus there will be 25 feet of grass vegetation around the replication area.

B. Easom asked whether the existing wetland soils would be used in the replication area. B. Ringwall said they would try.

M. Giguere asked whether the NOI is under only the bylaw. T. Tada said yes. He then asked for the specs from the manufacturer of the tree box filters. B. Ringwall said they are in page 2 of the Wetland Replication Report, as well as a link to the MassDEP program.

M. Giguere asked whether there is a long term monitoring program for the replication area. B. Ringwall said they would be monitoring the replication area for the first three years, noting that the first two years are the hardest. He said there is also long term management plan for the stormwater system. Commissioners discussed a requirement for up to five years of monitoring.

E. McHugh said it was a nice wetland report and asked whether there are any erosion controls around the base of the graded slope in the replication area. B. Ringwall said this could be done with wattles.

S. Black suggested monitoring for invasives.

O. Lathrop asked how the tree box filters would remove salt when it won't dissociate by itself. He said he wants to see the plan specs as to what rocks, mulch and proprietary media will be used. B. Ringwall said the Planning Board Special Permit for the Water Resources Protection District will preclude the use of salt and thus it will only be tracked in from the road.

P. Morrison asked if the forebay will develop wetland characteristics. B. Ringwall said yes, eventually.

T. Tada asked about the stormwater review process. B. Ringwall said they are finalizing some minor changes, per the request of Nitsch Engineering and will have the revisions later this week.

M. Giguere made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by E. McHugh and the vote was unanimous (6-0).

E. McHugh noted the following special conditions that will be included:

- 1) Wattles shall be used around the replication area.
- 2) There shall be an invasives control plan.
- 3) There shall be five years of replication area monitoring.

8:15 pm, Discussion: Invasive Species Committee – Pacer Way Proposal  
Committee Rep: Brian Bettencourt

B. Bettencourt said they are 1.5 years into the committee, noting that there has been public education and they are assisting the Town with actual projects (one licensed herbicide applicator is current and two for the future are proposed).

B. Bettencourt said the removal of Autumn Olive and Phragmites is a pilot project with the Conservation Commission.

S. Black said that regardless of methods, they need to get back to the point where it can just be mowed at least two times per year.

B. Bettencourt said that mowing is outside of the committee's purview but getting it to that point is where they can help. He said this includes public outreach/education as part of the benefit.

O. Lathrop said he was first notified by Suzanne Goehringer of the Friends of Trees and said they have a chance to succeed with invasives both with control and education.

S. Black asked what method of removal is used with Autumn Olive. O. Lathrop said to start with mowing and hand cutting and painting larger stems.

E. McHugh asked whether DPW could mow it.

O. Lathrop asked what the first step would be. B. Easom said there should be a site walk with the Invasive Species Committee to get a better understanding amongst themselves and involve the public later with a walk. He suggested including S. Goehringer of the Friends of Trees.

A site walk was scheduled for Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> @ 8 AM.

Return to General Business: Land Management

Fire control protocol will be discussed in the future with the Groton Conservation Trust.

Surrenden Farm

Baddacook Field: S. Black said the black swallow-wort plants haven't come up yet.

Sargisson Beach: The beach will open for the season on Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Committee Updates:

CPC: B. Easom said that all CPC articles passed at town meeting, noting that there was a nice slide presentation.

GPAC: There will be a meeting next week. M. Giguere needs to be reappointed.  
E. McHugh made a motion to appoint M. Giguere as the representative to the GPAC. S. Black seconded and the vote was unanimous (6-0).

ERSWAC: 788 Boston Road was done. E. McHugh asked whether there was a Pepperell Road violation. T. Tada updated.

Trails: O. Lathrop said there was the usual spring maintenance.

Return to General Business

Conservation Administrator transition was discussed.

B. Easom presented his vernal pool video.

Upon a motion by E. McHugh, seconded by S. Black, it was

VOTED: to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session at 9: PM, pursuant to MGL Ch. 30A Sec. 21(6), not to return to open session. The vote was unanimous by roll call (6-0).

Notes taken by Takashi Tada  
Conservation Administrator

**Exhibits on file at Conservation Commission Office:**

1. RDA, Forestry Access, Raddin Road (Marsh Family Trust)
2. NOI, Redevelopment, 788 Boston Road, Bylaw #2017-02
3. OOC, Groton School – North Driveway, MassDEP #169-1131
4. OOC, Academy Hill – North Access, MassDEP #169-917
5. OOC, 2-8 Hollis Street, MassDEP #169-1153

**Approved: November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017**