

GROTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 13, 2017

Location: Town Hall, 2nd Floor

Members Present: John Smigelski (Chair), Peter Morrison (Vice Chair), Olin Lathrop (Clerk),
Bruce Easom

Members Absent: Eileen McHugh, Marshall Giguere

Others Present: Nikolis Gualco (Conservation Administrator)

7:08 p.m. – The meeting was called to order by Chairman J. Smigelski.

7:08 p.m. – Public Hearing (cont.): NOI, 25 Whitney Pond Road for the upgrading of a septic system, MassDEP# 169-1157.

Owner/Applicant: Cyndi Dusek & Bryan Krol

Rep: Russell Wilson (R. Wilson and Associates), Ian Rubin, P.E., (Markey & Rubin)

I. Rubin (Professional Civil Engineer) began by explaining that he had reviewed the drainage calculations presented to the Commission at the regular October 10, 2017 meeting and stated that he had not personally conducted the calculations. From his review, I. Rubin believed that the basin installed at the top of the driveway will handle a 100 year storm event will be capable of infiltrating all water into the ground. He continued by saying that there would be a 90% reduction from pre-development with the installation of the basin and ditch/well system.

B. Easom asked what size watershed was used for the calculations.

I. Rubin responded that the report states 0.808 acres drain onto the site, but reiterated that he did not actually create the drainage calculations.

At this time the Commission reviewed the calculations with I. Rubin, who claimed are extremely conservative, and discussed the methods used in creating the report. During this time, the Commission also reviewed several recently submitted pictures (by Abutter, Joe Bozek) which documented the erosion occurring with current site conditions.

B. Easom stated that the calculations may need to be re-done to account for any unaccounted areas. I. Rubin agreed that this may be necessary, but again expressed confidence in how conservative the calculations were, which should account for any minor discrepancy in area.

B. Easom (pointing on the map) asked in the engineer could add a drainage point at the point where J. Bozek (23 Whitney Pond Rd.) property begins (“P4”) – as this was the area experiencing the brunt of erosion. The Commission all agreed with B. Easom’s request.

J. Smigelski commented that he believes that the drywell is too small to account for the amount of drainage likely to run off the steep slopes above it. John continued by sharing calculations he estimated, which lead him to question the capacity of the well.

B. Easom continued by saying that his main concern was the addition of drainage point “P4” as well as relocating drainage point “P2” to a location that better shows water drainage from the surrounding watershed (the road, surrounding hills). I. Rubin agreed with the need for these revisions, but stated again that the conservative nature of the calculations should cover changes.

O. Lathrop pointed out several numeric values within the report and asked I. Rubin for clarification with what he believed were discrepancies. They reviewed the report for several minutes until O. Lathrop concluded that his fundamental concern was not about the math, but rather about the drainage inputs. I. Rubin responded that he would re-evaluate the plan and stormwater drainage calculations report and stated he would ground truth with another engineer to make sure the watershed input volume was correct. If needed, he planned to revise the plan and report.

At this time, B. Easom shared with the audience a summary of a group meeting that occurred between himself, the Town Manager, Town Executive Assistant, DPW Director, and N. Gualco where the drainage issues at 25 Whitney Pond Road were discussed. He shared that the DPW Director offered to re-grade the shoulder of the road and improve an existing drainage mitigation system off Whiney Road as a means of reducing runoff volume reaching the driveway.

O. Lathrop recommended that DWP wait until a revised plan has been agreed on before they implement any changes. P. Morrison disagreed with this and stated that T. Delaney (DPW Director) knows how to deal with these types of issues and Conservation should not obstruct any attempt to improve the current conditions.

C. Dusek agreed with the idea that the Town should address the water coming off the road. She stated that it isn't fair to ask one homeowner to shoulder all the burden of what is a neighborhood drainage problem.

Emily Bozek (of 23 Whitney Pond Road) asked for clarification of where DPW is proposing work. B. Easom showed on the Town GIS map where the proposed activities are to occur (the top of the hill to the west of the driveway).

I. Rubin argued that it is not the applicant's responsibility to decrease the runoff rate, but rather to propose a septic design that does not increase the rate of runoff from current conditions. P. Morrison stated that he disagreed with this view point and reminded the group that historic conditions did not result in sediment getting into the pond.

B. Easom asked about the incentive for completing the drainage if the septic is approved, to which O. Lathrop stated that with the recently issued Enforcement Order, the two issues (septic and drainage) are now decoupled.

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by O. Lathrop, it was

VOTED: to close the public hearing for 25 Whitney Pond Road, MassDEP#169-1157.
The vote was unanimous (0-4) with all opposed.

Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by P. Morrison, it was

VOTED: to continue the public hearing for NOI MassDEP#169-1157 for 25 Whitney Pond Road, to 10/18/2017 at 7:00 p.m. The vote was unanimous (4-0).

7:59 p.m. P. Morrison made a motion (seconded by B. Easom) to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous (4-0).

Notes taken by Nikolis Gualco
Conservation Administrator

Exhibits on file at Conservation Commission Office:

1. NOI, 25 Whitney Pond Road, MassDEP#169-1157

Approved: November 12th, 2017