



TOWN OF GROTON
Conservation Commission
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Groton Conservation Commission
MEETING MINUTES
October 9th, 2018

Present: John Smigelski, Peter Morrison, Olin Lathrop, Laurence Hurley, Marshall Giguere, Eileen McHugh.

Absent: Bruce Easom* (phoned in for five minutes, but the connection was lost. No vote was taken during the five minutes B. Easom was on the phone. The minute taker reflects B. Easom as absent from this meeting).

Others present: Nikolis Gualco, Conservation Agent, Town of Groton

Where: Town Hall, Second Floor Meeting Room

1. APPOINTMENTS AND HEARINGS*

- 1.1 6:30 p.m. – RDA, 74 West Main Street, for the replacement of an existing failed sewage disposal system at 74 West Main Street (R. & P. Dunn).
Representative: Kevin Ritchie, Civil Solutions, Inc. (in attendance)
Owner: Bob Dunn (in attendance)

K. Ritchie began the meeting by explaining the project, which involves replacing a failed septic system with a Presby design system. The existing leach field is located under the driveway. It was estimated that the fact that the leach field was capped by asphalt contributed to its failure. The plan is to abandon the old field and no alteration to the driveway is planned. The location of the proposed leach field is dictated by ledge encountered at 12 inches in the front lawn area and overall lot size/configuration.

P. Morrison asked if excavated materials would be removed from site to which K. Ritchie said yes.

E. McHugh asked why they don't put the new leach field in the place of the old, which is mostly outside of the buffer zone. K. Ritchie stated that it was his opinion that the driveway contributed to what he believes was a premature failure of the old system.

O. Lathrop asked how construction vehicles would access the site, to which K. Ritchie indicated that they would use the east side (side where the work is being done and erosion controls are planned).

E. McHugh asked when the work would occur to which K. Ritchie replied as soon as possible. She continued and asked about restoration plans due to seasonal constraints. K. Ritchie stated that the plan is to plant winter rye and stabilize with straw.

Upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by P. Morrison, it was:

VOTED: to issue a negative 2 determination for the proposed work at 74 West Main Street under the following conditions:

1. In any area disturbed by the proposed project, winter rye shall be planted, protected by straw, and re-planted in the spring.
2. Erosion controls shall be installed per the plan “Sewage Disposal System Plan, dated April 5, 2018, revised July 23, 2018, and signed and stamped by Kevin Ritchie, R. P. E.”
3. Prior to beginning work, the erosion controls shall be inspected by the Conservation Administrator.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

- 1.2 6:45 p.m. – RDA, 191 Pepperell Road, for the replacement of an existing failed sewage disposal system (G. Miller).
Representative: Kevin Ritchie, Civil Solution, Inc. (in attendance).

K. Ritchie began by presenting the project, which involves the replacement of a failed septic system with a new Presby design system. Due to the location of the new system (proximity to wetland and steep topography) a polyliner will be installed. An existing shed and one sugar maple tree will need to be relocate and removed respectively. Access is planned up the driveway and in front of the house.

L. Hurley asked to be shown where the 50-foot buffer zone was on the plan. K. Ritchie complied and stated that the location of the new pumphouse (in the back yard) is approximately 52 feet from the edge of the wetland. L. Hurley continued by stating that all of the excavated materials will need to be removed from site.

E. McHugh had no questions.

M. Giguere mentioned that the whole project is within Riverfront and acknowledged that this line (the 200-foot line) would actually be off the plan. He continued by stating that he doesn’t see where else a system could go and had no further comments.

O. Lathrop asked about the polyliner.

L. Hurley asked if any ledge was found on site to which K. Ritchie stated that the test holes dug no ledge was found.

K. Ritchie then asked for a continuation to allow the Board of Health time to review the project before any determination is issued by the Conservation Commission.

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by L. Hurley, it was:

VOTED: to continue the public meeting for 191 Pepperell Road to October 23, 2018 to allow Board of Health time to issue a permit. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The Board then moved onto General Business, Land Management and N. Gualco reported that there were no updates for Eliades Conservation Area, Shattuck Homestead, or Reedy Meadow Estates.

- 1.3 7:00 p.m. – RDA, 34 Brown Lane, for the installation on an underground propane tank and utility trench (D. Rich, Bursaw Gas & Oil Inc.).

Owner: Dan Eiselen (in attendance)

D. Eiselen began by explaining the project, which involves the installation of a below-ground propane tank and connecting pipeline. The project had already begun and was discovered by the Conservation Administrator when the applicant's contractor applied for trench permit at Town Hall.

E. Mc Hugh expressed concerns about the damage associated with the track ruts near the porch. The Commission observed on its site walk erosion and torn up lawn within the 100-foot buffer zone and quite close to the hill that dropped down to the area where the wetlands are. D. Eiselen commented that he had mentioned this to the contractor who in turn had ordered 100 feet of straw wattles and plans to install them once they on-site.

M. Giguere commented to D. Eiselen that in order to clear up any confusion to where the wetland boundary begins would require the hiring of a wetlands scientist and he recommended this method for future projects.

O. Lathrop asked D. Eiselen to add the location of the erosion controls on the site plan, to which he did so.

Upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by P. Morrison, it was:

VOTED: to issues a Negative 3 Determination of Applicability to Dan. Eiselen for the work at 34 Brown Lane under the following conditions:

- 1) The applicant shall restore and stabilize the area affected by tire ruts by re-grading and re-planting with grass.
- 2) Erosion controls, as described in the revised plan dated 10/09/2018 (see attached), shall be placed before any further work occurs.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The Commission then moved to General Business, 2.7 Certificate of Compliance:

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by E. McHugh, it was:

VOTED: to issue a Certificate of Compliance to Glenn Kinnear of 54 Ridgewood Ave for Order of Conditions MassDEP#169-1026. **The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

1.4 7:15 p.m. – NOI (cont.), 102 Weymissset Road, for the construction of an addition to the existing single-family home, MassDEP# 169-1181.

Representative: Dan Memont

The hearing continued with D. Memont providing a revised site plan, which provided details to a site restoration plan and the installation of stormwater mitigation features (rain barrel, drywell).

M. Giguere commented that he had no questions and thanks the applicant for providing the materials the Commission asked for at its last meeting.

O. Lathrop expressed that he is still not supportive of the expansion of permanent structure within the 50- and 100-foot buffer zones.

Neither P. Morrison nor L. Hurley had questions.

E. McHugh made several recommendations to the plan including:

- 1) Shrubs should comprise at least 30% of the plant bed areas.
- 2) All plant beds shall include at least 50% vegetation coverage
- 3) The remaining areas within the plant beds shall be mulched.

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by L. Hurley, it was:

VOTED: to close the public hearing for 102 Weymisset Road, MassDEP#169-1181. **The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

The Commission then returned to General Business, 2.1.4 Surrenden Farm West – red pine removal update. The Commission discussed an article N. Gualco prepared for publication in the Groton Herald announcing a site walk at Surrenden on October 28 at 12noon.

The Commission then reviewed 2.3.1 Forest Cutting Plan – Groton Fruit Farm and opted to comment that the use of 50-foot-wide buffer strips would be preferred during harvesting. N. Gualco offered to write a letter and send to the DCR Forester.

L. Hurley reported that the Sargisson Beach Committee has made serious progress in closing down the beach for the season.

E. McHugh reported that the open space plan was on-track but that the lakes region appears to be under-represented in the working groups. It was suggested that N. Gualco contact Brad Harper and Art Prest and encourage their attendance to the next working group meeting.

M. Giguere reported that GPAC is having issues scheduling a meeting, but is hopeful that the Chair will resolve this soon.

Upon a motion by E. McHugh, seconded by L. Hurley, it was:

VOTED: to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. **The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

Respectively submitted,
Nikolis Gualco

Approved: October 23, 2018