

**EARTH REMOVAL STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2016, 7:00 PM  
MINUTES**

Chairman Edward Perkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall

Members present: Perkins, Capes, Hanninen, and McHugh

Member absent: Delaney

**PUBLIC HEARING – GD-at-PLAY STORMWATER PERMIT, GROTON DUNSTABLE HIGH SCHOOL**

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 198 of the Code of Groton, the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee held a public hearing to consider the application for a Full Stormwater Management Permit for field renovations as shown on the plan entitled, "Groton Dunstable Regional High School Field Renovation, Groton, MA 01450," prepared by Gale Associates, dated September 14, 2016. The proposed field renovations will be located at 703 Chicopee Row, Assessors' Map 230, Parcel 55, on the northwesterly side of Chicopee Row.

Chairman Perkins called the hearing to order and read the notice published in the September 23, 2016 issue of the *Groton Herald*. G-D at Play representatives Ellen Farraro, Jeanne Niemoller, and John Giger; GDRSD Athletic Director Michael McCaffery, and design engineer John Perry of Gale Associates were present.

Mr. Perry presented the plan to replace an existing grass athletic field with an artificial turf field. The project involves removal of grass and topsoil and replacing it with artificial turf as shown on the plans submitted with the application. Tests determined that there is no groundwater within 6-8 feet of the surface. Twelve inches (12") of crushed stone will be installed underneath the artificial turf. The existing sand and gravel subsoils drain very well. Silt sacks will be installed around the perimeter of the field to prevent siltation of the existing drainage trenches during construction. Excess loam and earth material will be stockpiled in the track and transported to the Town DPW facility. There will be no work in the 100 ft wetlands buffer zone.

Chairman Perkins asked if the artificial turf is permeable. Mr. Perry said there are holes punched in the tufted fabric to allow the flow of water.

Member Capes asked if the drought affected testing the high groundwater levels. Mr. Perry said, "No," because the testing is also based upon observation of soil mottling.

Member Capes asked about the impact of the new field on drainage. Mr. Perry said the subsurface infill will provide drainage. Runoff will flow into the existing drainage system as shown on the plan.

Member Hanninen asked about the lifespan of the new field. Mr. Perry said the drainage system and base would last around fifty (50) years. The turf will have to be replaced in 10-15 years. The turf material can be recycled.

Member McHugh asked how the contractor would prevent erosion from reaching the existing stormwater basins. Mr. Perry said the drainage trench would be covered with filter fabric.

Member McHugh asked about the bridge that would be used during construction. Mr. Perry pointed out the detail on Sheet C.002

October 4, 2016

Page 2

Jeanne Niemoller asked if the contractor could use the emergency vehicle access road during construction. Stormwater Inspector Michelle Collette said, "No," because there is a conservation restriction on the area north of the school building and fields. The access road can only be used for emergency vehicles.

High school student Arthur Wang asked a number of well-researched questions about the project, the approval process, and the safety of the turf material. He said the environmental impacts to groundwater and Unkety Brook are not known.

Members explained that the ERSWAC only has jurisdiction over stormwater issues. The other questions should be addressed to the Groton Dunstable School Committee when it reviews the project. The Committee complimented Mr. Wang on the thoroughness of his research.

Ms. Niemoller said the GD-at-Play organization is doing its research as well because they want a safe, environmentally-friendly field.

The Committee voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

The motion was made by Hanninen, seconded by McHugh, to approve the Full Stormwater Management Permit with the following findings and conditions:

#### **Finding of Significance**

The Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee determined that the proposed project is significant to the interests stated in Chapter 198, Section 1 Purposes, including:

*It has been determined that proper management of construction sites and post-development stormwater runoff will prevent damage to public and private property and infrastructure, safeguard the public health, safety, environment and general welfare, protect water and aquatic resources, promote groundwater recharge to protect surface and groundwater drinking supplies, and encourage the appropriate use of the land throughout the Town.*

#### **Special conditions:**

At its regular meeting on October 4, 2016, the Earth Removal-Stormwater Advisory Committee voted to grant the permit with the following conditions:

1. Construction shall be done in accordance with the above-referenced plans and construction sequencing.
2. The construction entrances shall be stabilized for a minimum distance of 50 ft as shown on the "Construction Entrance" detail from the "Massachusetts Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Urban and Suburban Areas." Two construction entrances shall be installed, one on each side of the track. The crushed stone shall be replenished as needed to prevent tracking sediment on the surrounding paved surfaces including parking lots and access roads.
3. All work shall be done in compliance with the "Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection - Stormwater Management, Volume One: Stormwater Policy Handbook, and Volume Two: Stormwater Technical Handbook," dated February 2008.

4. It is the applicant's responsibility to prevent the products of erosion and sedimentation from reaching surrounding paved surfaces including parking lots and access roads on the Groton Dunstable High School site and Chicopee Row. There shall be no net increase in runoff or erosion to the public ways, the GDRHS storm drain system, or abutting properties.
5. The limits of disturbance shown on the plan shall be well delineated in the field with erosion control barriers in the locations shown on the above-referenced plan. Filter fabric shall be installed to protect both sides of the existing "trench drain at inside edge of track surface." The limit of work not delineated by erosion control barriers shall be delineated with yellow flagging to prevent disturbance. These barriers and flagging shall be maintained throughout construction to prevent any disturbance to the vegetation or topography beyond the limits of disturbance.
6. All disturbed areas and stockpiles must be properly stabilized. A supply of erosion control materials shall be kept on site to stabilize disturbed areas.
7. During construction, no slope shall be any steeper than 2:1, including any open cellar holes, to prevent any potential public safety hazard. All excavations are to be done according to the latest version of the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 29 CFR 1926, Safety and Health Regulations for Construction, Subpart P – Excavations.
8. Catch basins shall be protected with erosion control barriers and siltation sacks during construction to prevent the basins from becoming clogged with sand and silt.
9. The applicant shall take effective measures to control dust and windblown erosion at all times. All topsoil shall be stockpiled on the site. Erosion control barriers shall be installed around the base of the stockpile. The stockpiles shall be seeded to prevent dust and wind-blown erosion.
10. The applicant shall comply with the Operation and Maintenance Plan entitled, "Attachment 7, Operation & Maintenance/Erosion & Sedimentation Control Plan." The applicant shall keep a log of spring and fall maintenance activities. The Operation and Maintenance plan shall comply with Section 352-22.
11. After a project is issued a Certificate of Completion the Responsible Party or Owner, as listed in the Long-Term Operation and Maintenance Plan, shall submit annual BMP Inspection and Maintenance logs to the Committee and if applicable an updated Long Term Operation and Maintenance Plan on or before June 1<sup>st</sup> annually<sup>as</sup> required in Section 352-6D.
12. The applicant must submit any proposed change in the above referenced plans to the Earth Removal-Stormwater Advisory Committee for its review and approval before the change is implemented.
13. The removal of any excess earth material from the site requires a Certificate of Exemption from the Earth Removal By-law, Chapter 134 of the Code of the Town of Groton. Chapter 134, Section 10 Exemptions.

14. The applicant is responsible for obtaining any other permits (including but not limited to) those required by the Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Building Commissioner, DPW Director, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.
15. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the contents of this permit are made known to all contractors who perform work at this site.
16. It is the applicant's responsibility to contact Dig Safe prior to the commencement of any work at the site. The applicant is responsible for obtaining a trench permit, if required by G.L. c. 82A §1 and 520 CMR 7.00 et seq (as amended).
17. The applicant will notify the Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of construction. Additionally, the applicant will provide the Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector with emergency contact information for all site contractors.
18. If the project is not completed within two (2) years from the date the permit is issued, it is the responsibility of the applicant to request an extension. The Committee may grant extensions for additional time provided that the applicant submits a written request for renewal no later than 30 days prior to expiration of the permit.
19. The applicant is required to obtain a Certificate of Completion as required in Section 352-5A Project Completion which states:

“When the construction of a project is completed, the applicant shall request that the Committee conduct a final inspection. For full stormwater management permits, the applicant must submit a statement from a registered professional engineer certifying that the project was completed in accordance with the approved plans and construction conditions of the permit. The applicant shall also submit an on-the-ground surveyed as-built plan prepared by a professional land surveyor. The Committee shall determine whether the project complies with the approved plans, construction conditions of the permit, and Chapter 198, Stormwater Management. If completion is satisfactory, the Committee shall issue a Certificate of Completion. “
20. This permit runs with the land and applies to any successor in interest or successor in control.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **EARTH REMOVAL EXEMPTION – GD-at-PLAY**

The motion was made by McHugh, seconded by Hanninen, to recommend that the Board of Selectmen grant the Earth Removal Exemption to GD-at-Play with the with the standard conditions and with the condition that the excess material would be donated to the Town DPW as offered by the applicant. The motion passed unanimously.

**INDIAN HILL MUSIC PEER REVIEW**

The Committee received an estimate of \$5100 from Nitsch Engineering to review the Indian Hill Music Stormwater Permit application for Phase 2 construction.

The motion was made by Capes, seconded by McHugh, to accept the estimate of \$5100 with the understanding that the engineer would attend additional public hearings, if necessary, and that there would be additional cost for attending said hearings. The motion passed unanimously.

**EARTH REMOVAL/STORMWATER INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

Stormwater Inspector Michelle Collette said she would be sending reminder letters to all applicants regarding the need to request an extension or a certificate of completion for outstanding projects. Members agreed.

**MINUTES**

The Committee voted unanimously to approve the August 2, 2016 minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette  
Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector