

EARTH REMOVAL STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 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, Delaney, Hanninen, and McHugh

PUBLIC HEARING – INDIAN HILL MUSIC STORMWATER PERMIT

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 submitted by Indian Hill Music for a Full Stormwater Management Permit for Phase 2 construction as shown on the plan entitled, “Plans to Accompany Permit Applications for the Music Center at Indian Hill – Phase 2, Old Ayer Road, Groton, Massachusetts” prepared by Beals Associates, Inc., dated September 14, 2016. The proposed music center will be located at 122 Old Ayer Road, Assessors’ Map 222, Parcel 55, on the westerly side of Old Ayer Road.

Chairman Perkins called the hearing to order and read the notice published in the September 30 and October 7, 2016 issues of the *Groton Herald*. Susan Randazzo and Lisa Fiorentino of Indian Hill Music, Project Manager Gary Shepherd, design engineers Todd Morey and Deven Howe of Beals Associates, and the Committee’s consulting engineer Tim McGivern of Nitsch Engineering were present.

Mr. Morey presented an overview of Phase 2 of the proposed project, the Stormwater Permit application, and the request for a Certificate of Exemption to remove excess earth material. He described the proposed loop road, the buildings, parking lots and stormwater management system. There will be gated access roads on Peabody Street and Old Ayer Road for emergency vehicle access as requested by the Fire Chief. A service access from the loop road to a separate parking lot will be used for deliveries, staff and musicians. Pedestrian access will be available throughout the site. A sloped lawn at the southern side of the concert hall will be used for outdoor seating. Thirty (30) foot wide biofiltration swales will be installed in the parking lots for water quality treatment.

Mr. Morey described the cut and fill required to construct the buildings and develop the site. The cut and fill for site development will be in the range of five to ten vertical feet. Additionally, the main concert hall will be thirty-three (33) feet below grade which will generate excess earth material. The application for the Certificate of Exemption submitted to the Board of Selectmen is for the removal of 77,500 cubic yards of excess material.

Mr. Shepherd said they plan to repurpose a considerable amount of the earth material on adjacent properties owned by Indian Hill Music to enhance the agricultural setting. They would like to begin the earth work this winter and spring. It should take about a year to complete.

Stormwater Inspector Michelle Collette said she would like to visit the site weekly during active earth moving and construction. The applicant agreed.

Mr. Shepherd said the earth material is till and poor draining soils. The soils are sand and gravel. He offered to donate the excess material to the DPW. DPW Director/Committee Member Tom Delany said he would take whatever material he could use.

October 18, 2016

Page 2

Mr. Morey described the proposed farm pond to be installed at the intersection of Old Ayer Road and Peabody Street. This pond will function as a wet drainage basin. Open drainage swales will be installed along the side of the access road. Runoff will be balanced between the wet basin (farm pond) and the subsurface stormwater infiltration system in the parking lot. Outlets will be toward the wetlands and Nashua River Rail Trail to the west and toward James Brook to the east. The pods in the parking lot will capture sheet flow. There will be no curbing or catch basins along the access road or in the parking lots except two catch basins in the low spot of the parking lot and two in the area of the building. Riverstone will be used for the paved surfaces for a more natural look. Trees, shrubs, and grasses will be planted in the bio-swales. Engineered soils and perforated pipes will be used to collect runoff. The proposed Low Impact Development (LID) system will provide pre-treatment of the stormwater. Roof runoff will be discharged to the stormwater management system. The subsurface infiltration system will treat stormwater to meet DEP and Town of Groton water quality standards. The outlet control to the west is a 30" pipe. The runoff rates are lower for post development than for pre-development. Balancing volume is more difficult, so there is less volume to the east than there is to the west for the 100-year storm. Drainage from the site flows to the Groton School Pond. The net impact raises the water level of the Groton School pond by $\frac{3}{4}$ ". More field work is being done to determine the potential impact. Member Delaney suggested investigating the culverts under the rail trail to see if they are blocked.

Mr. Morey said they will submit a written response to the Nitsch Engineering report that they just received that day.

Member McHugh asked if James Brook would have less water will be change in flows. Mr. Morey said, "No."

Member Hanninen asked about the Operating and Maintenance (O & M) plan for the stormwater management system. Mr. Morey said the structures are 300 ft or less and will be inspected quarterly and cleaned out annually as described in the O & M plan.

Member Capes asked about the overflow from the subsurface infiltration system. Mr. Morey said the overflow ends at an embankment with rip rap at the outlet and sheet flow from that point.

Tim McGivern of Nitsch Engineering presented his report dated October 17, 2016. Mr. McGivern suggested installing a fence around the farm pond which could be an attractive nuisance. Mr. Shepherd said they would prefer not to have a fence and will find another solution to buffer the pond.

Marion Stoddart asked about oil and gas in the parking lot and roadway and the impact on James Brook. Mr. Morey explained the "first flush" for the one-year storm design standards. Sheet flow will be directed to the bio-infiltration system which water quality treatment units will collect particles, oil and grease. The treatment units must be vacuumed periodically to collect the oil and grease that floats on the top.

Abutter Steve Robertson asked about the number of trucks that would be needed for earth removal. Mr. Shepherd said 1222 truckloads with 5-6 trucks leaving the site per day. They will manage the earth removal activities to minimize truck traffic.

The Committee voted unanimously to continue the public hearing on November 1, 2016 at 7 PM.

The motion was made by Hanninen, seconded by Delaney, to recommend that the Board of Selectmen grant the Certificate of Exemption from the Earth Removal By-law to allow the removal of up to 80,000 cubic yards from the Indian Hill Music site at 122 Old Ayer Road with the standard conditions. The motion passed unanimously.

October 18, 2016

Page 3

GROTON INN EARTH REMOVAL EXEMPTION AND STORMWATER PERMIT EXTENSION

The Committee met with John Amaral of 128 Main Street, LLC regarding the application for a Certificate of Exemption to remove 7600 cubic yards of earth material from the Groton Inn site now under construction.

Mr. Amaral offered the excess material to the DPW but DPW Director Delaney said the material not good quality and he could not use it.

The motion was made by Hanninen, seconded by Delaney, to recommend that the Board of Selectmen grant the Certificate of Exemption from the Earth Removal By-law to allow the removal of up to 8,000 cubic yards from the Groton Inn site, 128 Main Street, with the standard conditions. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Amaral submitted a written request to extend Stormwater Permit 2014-04 for the Groton Inn. The motion was made by Hanninen, seconded by Delaney, to extend the Stormwater Permit for two years. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector