

EARTH REMOVAL STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019, 7:00 PM
MINUTES

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

Members present: Edward Perkins, George Barringer, Tom Delaney, Bob Hanninen, and Eileen McHugh

OLIVIA WAY DRAINAGE PROBLEMS

The Committee met with design engineer Doug Lees, consulting engineer Marc Gabriel, and Olivia Way residents to discuss remediation of the severe flooding problems on Olivia Way.

Design engineer Doug Lees presented the plan showing overflow pipes from the Stormtec infiltrators on Olivia Way to the abutting property owned by the Conservation Commission. The pipes will discharge to a retention basin and a forebay to treat water quality. The basin will be surrounded by an 18" berm with a rip-rap outlet. The depth of the pond will be approximately 6" and will include aquatic plants. There will be 5500 cu ft of storage volume in the pond. The proposed easement on conservation land is 35,230 SF.

Chairman Perkins asked about the groundwater elevation. Mr. Lees said the groundwater was at 204 ft in December 2018. Chairman Perkins expressed concern that the basin would dry out.

Member McHugh said the Committee just received the plan and it has not been reviewed by Nitsch Engineering. She asked if the storage volume is sufficient to include water discharged from the Stormtec infiltrators. Mr. Lees said, "Yes."

Member McHugh asked if the basement flooding at 10 Olivia Way had been solved. Mr. Lees said, "No."

Member McHugh said she would prefer that the water quality basin be located on Olivia Way Condominium Association land rather than on conservation land. She asked if Mr. Lees surveyed the trees on conservation land. Mr. Lees said, "No."

Member Hanninen said the Stormtec infiltrator on the single-family lot at the Groton-Pepperell town line may be contributing to the flooding problems at 10 Olivia Way. The infiltrator system is 3 ft higher than the basement elevation. Mr. Lees agreed and said he considered installing a French drain to the pond to capture flow from the infiltrator. However, the overflow has not been included in the calculations for the storage volume of the pond.

Member Barringer said the flooding problems at 10 Olivia Way must be fixed first. Otherwise, the proposed plan will not fix the problem.

Member Barringer said the Planning Board will be discussing Olivia Way at its meeting on February 21, 2019. He said two weeks ago there was water in the roadway, but the road was dry on Saturday after the silt sacks were punctured. He asked where the silt went.

Mr. Lees said there are 4 ft sumps in the catch basins. Member Barringer noted the catch basins should be inspected and cleaned.

February 19, 2019

Page 2

Chairman Perkins asked the Conservation Commission members for comments.

Commission Member Smigelski said the developer must address the flooding conditions at 10 Olivia Way. He said that the Stormtec system in Pepperell above 10 Olivia Way should be tested. He noted that the foundation of #10 is lower than the other houses on Olivia Way.

Mr. Lambert, 10 Olivia Way, said he spoke with Pepperell's DPW Director who told him that water generated in Pepperell should stay in Pepperell and water generated in Groton should stay in Groton. Member Delaney said there is a difference between stormwater, which is surface water, and groundwater.

Commission Member Lathrop asked about the total amount of impervious surface. Mr. Lees said the total 26,700 SF of impervious surface that must be treated for water quality.

Commission Member Lathrop asked how much water will be discharged on conservation land. Mr. Lees said he would submit the calculations to the Committee.

Commission Member Lathrop asked where the water would drain after it leaves the basin. Mr. Lees said the water will flow toward Reedy Meadow Brook which is 300-400 ft away.

Commission Member Hurley said the Stormtec system in Pepperell is larger and it is 3-4 ft higher than the infiltrators on Olivia Way. He asked about groundwater in the infiltration system. Mr. Lees said groundwater follows hydraulic grades. Mr. Hurley said he would prefer to move the forebay off the conservation land.

Commission Member Giguere said in order to qualify for an Article 97 approval, compensatory land of equal value must be provided.

Stormwater Inspector Michelle Collette noted that Town Counsel recommended that the Article 97 warrant article be submitted by the residents as a citizens petition rather than by the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee. She said she would forward information on the process to the residents.

Mr. Hepburn, 14 Olivia Way, asked what the slope would be to the pond. Mr. Lees said it would be relatively flat from elevation 203.5 ft to 202 ft.

Mr. George, 13 Olivia Way, asked if the pipe that was installed in December to connect the two catch basins is helping. Mr. Lees said it was not finished because the outlet was not installed. Mr. George said the pump runs constantly so it appears that the infiltration system is not working at all.

Developer Peter Cricones said the pumps are running so the water does not freeze.

Member Barringer asked if they are still pumping water at 3 Olivia Way. Ms. Esielionis, 3 Olivia Way, said, "No, not now."

February 19, 2019

Page 3

The Committee's engineer, Marc Gabriel, suggested that a video camera be used to evaluate the pipes. Mr. Lees said they cannot do that because the pipes are flooded.

Mr. Gabriel asked if siltation is a concern. Mr. Lees said not since they punched through the silt sacks.

Mr. Gabriel asked if the driveways and sidewalk would be regraded to prevent icing. Mr. Lees said they will regrade and super-elevate the road in this area.

Mr. Gabriel said the applicant must be thoughtful about the type of plants installed in the forebay and wet basin. He asked if a rip-rap overflow would be installed at the curb. Mr. Lees said, "Yes."

Mr. Channing asked if the turtle barrier is still needed. Mr. Lees said they must have permission from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program to remove it.

Member McHugh asked if there is an option to correct the problem without using conservation land or impacting EUA #14. Mr. Lees said, "No."

Member Hanninen asked if any other land is available to use as compensatory land for the Conservation Commission. Mr. Cricones said not in Groton.

SPRING TOWN MEETING

The motion was made by Hanninen, seconded by Perkins, to submit an article for the Spring Town Meeting Warrant amend Chapter 198 so permits expire in three years rather than two years. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector