

**EARTH REMOVAL STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022, 7:00 PM  
MINUTES**

Chairwoman McHugh called the virtual meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members present: Eileen McHugh, George Barringer, Tom Delaney, Bob Hanninen, and Steven Savage

**PUBLIC HEARING – Groton Dunstable Regional School District-Florence Roche School**

In accordance with the provisions of the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 198, the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee held a virtual public hearing via Zoom to consider the application submitted by the Town of Groton/Groton Dunstable Regional School District (GDRSD) for approval of a Full Stormwater Management Permit for construction of the new Florence Roche elementary school as shown on the plan entitled, “Stormwater Management Permit Review, Florence Roche Elementary School,” prepared by Samiotes Consultants, Inc., dated January 4, 2022. The project is located at 342 Main Street, Assessors’ Parcel 110-42 on the easterly side of Main Street.

Chairwoman McHugh called the hearing to order and read the legal notice published in the December 24, 2022 issue of the *Groton Herald*. Design engineer Jeffrey Pilat of Samiotes Consultants and Meryl Nester of Studio G Architects presented the plan. The Committee consulting engineer, Jared Gentilucci of Nitsch Engineering was present.

Ms. Nester gave an overview of the project to construct a new 109,000 square foot elementary school and new 400-meter track. The existing Florence Roche School will be demolished. Work on the new track will begin in the spring of 2022 and will be finished by the fall of 2022. Construction of the new school will begin in 2023 and will finish in 2024. The work on the green space will be done in 2024 and 2025.

Mr. Pilat described the site plan including the universally accessible walkways and a new 20-ft wide emergency vehicle access. Parking will be located on the southwest side of the building, between the Florence Roche school and the Middle School South. Increase in runoff will be mitigated by the new stormwater management system including a new deep-sump catch basin and three subsurface infiltration systems. Overflow will be directed toward the pond near Main Street. Two rain gardens will be installed. There will be stormwater teaching elements in the courtyard. A watershed map and pre- and post-development calculations are provided in the Stormwater Management Report submitted with the application. All standards in Chapter 352 and the Massachusetts Stormwater Standards have been met.

Ms. Nester presented drawings from students that were done at the beginning of the design process.

Mr. Gentilucci presented his peer review report dated January 18, 2022. He stated that most of his comments are minor and will be very easy to address. Item #4 regarding roof runoff may require a waiver:

“Section 352-11.C.(10) states that underground recharge systems may only be used to recharge stormwater runoff directly from rooftops. They may not be used to recharge stormwater runoff from other surfaces due to sediments in the runoff that may cause clogging of the recharge system and difficulty to rehabilitate these systems once they have failed.”

“Infiltration Systems #1, #2, and #3 are underground recharge systems that collect roadway runoff from the driveway and parking lots. The Applicant should revise the Plans to comply with this Section or request a waiver from the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee. Nitsch Engineering would take no exceptions to this waiver request provided that a minimum of 80% TSS removal is provided prior to discharge of non-roof runoff to any underground recharge systems.”

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Steve Powers of Samiotes Consultants noted that this project must meet redevelopment standards which are different than new development standards.

Chairman McHugh said the Committee would consider the request for a waiver at a later meeting.

Mr. Gentilucci said a groundwater mounding analysis is needed to confirm the required two-foot separation from groundwater. He said the catch basin with the TSS removal of 25% should be addressed to meet water quality standards.

Member Barringer expressed concerns about the subsurface infiltration system under the parking lot at the southern boundary of the property. He said this may affect abutters close to the property line and asked what safeguards would be in place.

Mr. Pilat said barriers will be installed on both sides of the infiltration system for the whole depth of the system. Mr. Gentilucci said he agreed that the barriers will provide protection for the abutters to the south.

Member Barringer said if the TSS standards are lowered, this may impact the ability of the systems to function. He asked what the remedy would be if they fail. Mr. Powers said the Operation and Maintenance Plan requires regular inspections and vacuum cleaning.

Member Delaney expressed concerns that the GDRSD does not have the money in its budget or the expertise to deal with the operation and maintenance of the stormwater system. He said he is not in favor of granting any waivers of the regulations for the removal of solids in the stormwater. He stated that the schools and towns do not have a vacuum truck that is needed to clean the subsurface system.

Member Savage asked what would prevent the flooding of the field inside the track. Mr. Powers said the track is not plowed, sanded, or salted so such solids will not be contributed to the stormwater system. Plowing the track would cause damage to the surface. Mr. Powers also stated that Samiotes did not design the track.

Member Hanninen expressed concerns about the subsurface infiltration systems. He asked, if the waiver is granted for less than 80% TSS, what is the diminished life time of the system. Mr. Powers said the Town's regulations (Chapter 352) go above and beyond Massachusetts Stormwater Standards. There are soil conditions and other variables to consider. The system will work for decades if it is properly maintained.

Stormwater Inspector Michelle Collette asked about construction impact on abutters when the site is not stable, especially dust control when the weather is dry and windy. Construction Manager Tripp McElroy of Gilbane said they would be overseeing construction for GDRSD. Regular reports will be submitted after storm events. Dust will be controlled by application of water whenever necessary.

Chairwoman McHugh said she shares the concerns of other members, particularly whether the schools have the funding for the required long-term maintenance of the system. She requested that the applicant submit a written construction phasing plan. She said she appreciates the inclusion of the rain gardens in the plan.

Chairwoman McHugh asked about cut and fill. Mr. Pilat said there would be more fill than cut. Estimates will be provided at the next meeting.

Chairman McHugh asked if the work would continue when school is in session. David Saindon of LeftField, the owner's project manager, said, "yes."

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Chairwoman McHugh asked how much impervious area will be added. Mr. Pilat said 72,000 square feet.

Member Delaney noted that the stormwater management system will be impacted during construction. He asked what the annual cost estimate is for the schools to maintain the system. Mr. Pilat said approximately \$2000 - \$4000 annually.

Member Barringer asked about the area northwest of the track. Mr. Pilat said wetlands are in that area.

Member Barringer asked if an LID feature could be installed inside the track. Mr. Pilat said they designed the stormwater management system to mitigate peak flow. Member Barringer asked if the size of the system could be reduced and runoff discharged to the wetlands.

Member Savage asked if the new school and the track are treated as one site. Mr. Powers said they are treating all the impervious area on the site as a whole. Member Savage asked if they are using part of the existing stormwater system. Mr. Pilat said they are tying into some existing drainage lines.

Stormwater Inspector Michelle Collette said excess runoff cannot be discharged directly to the wetlands because the Wetlands Protection Act and Regulations have performance standards of no net increase in runoff to the wetlands. Chairwoman McHugh agreed that you cannot increase runoff to the wetlands.

The Committee discussed whether to continue the hearing on February 1 or March 1, 2022. Mr. Powers said March 1, 2022 is too long to wait.

*The motion was made by Delaney, seconded by Savage, to continue the public hearing on February 1, 2022, at 7:30 PM. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote: Barringer – aye, Delaney – aye, Hanninen – aye, Savage – aye, McHugh – aye.*

#### **PUBLIC HEARING – 92 Common Street**

In accordance with the provisions of the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 198, the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee held a virtual public hearing via Zoom to consider the application submitted by Tim Svarczkopf for approval of a Limited Stormwater Management Permit to construct a single-family dwelling, driveway, and sewage disposal system as shown on the plan entitled, "Site Plan, 92 Common Street, Groton, Massachusetts," prepared by Dillis and Roy, dated January 4, 2022. The property, owned by Jeanne Nutt, is located at 92 Common Street, Assessors Map 229, Parcel 9, Lot 2, on the easterly side of Common Street.

Chairwoman McHugh called the hearing to order and read the legal notice published in the December 24, 2022 issue of the *Groton Herald*. Applicant Tim Svarczkopf and landowner Jeanne Nutt were present. The Conservation Commission is reviewing the plan.

Member Hanninen asked about roof runoff. Mr. Roy said there are no provisions for collecting roof runoff, but they will consider adding them some.

Member Savage asked if fill would be brought onto the site. Mr. Roy said the cut and fill is balanced, but additional fill may be needed for the sewage disposal system.

Member Delaney said he had no issues with the plan but asked if the lot line in the road right-of-way as shown on the plan could be shifted. Mr. Roy agreed to make the change to the plan.

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Member Barringer asked if the property is under agreement. Mr. Svarczkopf said Jeanne Nutt is the property owner.

Stormwater Inspector Michelle Collette asked about the groundwater elevation. Mr. Roy said the stormwater system is more than the required two feet above high groundwater.

Chairman McHugh said she supports the inclusion of a raingarden on the plan.

Abutter David Grigglesstone expressed concern about water in his basement increasing as a result of high groundwater. Mr. Roy said the driveway is pitched to mirror the existing slope, and the swale and basin will infiltrate the stormwater. Mr. Roy said they will look at other measures such as infiltrating roof runoff.

Abutter Kristen MacInnis asked about the sewage disposal system. Mr. Roy said it is a conventional system that will be raised 3-4 ft above ground. The system was designed by Soil Smith and permitted previously. Ms. MacInnis asked about impact on her well. Mr. Roy said there must be a separation of 100 ft between the sewage disposal system and any well under Title Five.

Ms. MacInnis expressed concern about any increase in runoff onto their lot. Mr. Roy said they would look into her concern.

*The motion was made by Barringer, seconded by Hanninen, to continue the public hearing on February 1, 2022. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote: Barringer – aye, Delaney – aye, Hanninen – aye, Savage – aye, McHugh – aye.*

#### **MINUTES**

*The motion was made by Hanninen, seconded by Barringer, to approve the minutes of January 4, 2022 with the deletion of the note in parenthesis. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote: Barringer – aye, Delaney – aye, Hanninen – aye, Savage – aye, McHugh – aye.*

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette  
Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector