



Town of West Springfield
West Springfield Conservation Commission
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Approved 1/23/19

Minutes
Wednesday
November 28, 2018
6:00 PM

Justin Morgan Auditorium

A video of this meeting is available online at

<https://livestream.com/accounts/5714082/events/6341212/videos/184133209>

Members present: Kevin Cote, Maryellen Hammond, Danny Hannoush, Deena Maniscalchi

Members excused: Virginia Danforth, Melissa Hensen, Adam Jabber

Others present: Mark Noonan, Conservation Agent

Introduction

Chairman Cote opened the meeting at 6:07 P.M. He thanked everyone for attending and in accordance with MGL Ch. 30A, read the standard procedures for those intending to record meetings, the receiving of information by the Board, and documentation kept by the Board.

Commission members and staff introduced themselves for the general public.
Meeting Procedures were reviewed.

Agenda

Motion to accept the agenda made by Hammond. Second by Maniscalchi. AIF

Minutes

Past minutes will not be reviewed until the next meeting.

Public Participation:

Cote asked if there was anything not on the agenda that needed to be discussed. There was nothing raised.

Request for Determination of Applicability - Parkwood Dr. - Culvert Lining

Dan Delaney of Fuss & O'Neill took the podium on behalf Mark Kaufman of Kaufco-BH, Inc. He described the location and current condition of the area, as well as their proposal for relining the pipe without digging up the current corrugated pipe. Cote asked what was done to determine if this is a viable option. Delaney said Kaufman has a quote from a company who did scope the area. Cote asked how structurally sound this method is. Delaney said, once cured, it is self supporting with a minimally reduced load rating than that of the current pipe. Maniscalchi asked what type of equipment would be used. Delaney stated two trucks (on the road) and the workers would need to walk in the wetland area. The tube sock of polymer is pulled through the pipe. Hannoush asked when they would like to start the work. Delaney said next week if approved. Noonan asked how they feed the polymer sock through the pipe. Delaney was unsure. Noonan then asked how much capacity would be lost in the pipe. Delaney stated there is no history of any issue at this location. The decrease in the diameter of the pipe is small. The flow of the new smooth inner surface would be much greater than the coefficient in the failing corrugated pipe. Noonan is concerned that a collapse would flood Interstate 91. He suggested several pending conditions and asked to see the video of the current pipe being scoped, with Delaney present. Hannoush made a motion to issue a negative determination of applicability pending the order of conditions and having Noonan onsite prework. Maniscalchi second. AIF. Noonan said it would take a day or two to put the conditions together.

Notice of Intent - 1333 Westfield St. - Dunkin Donuts Expansion

Rob Levesque from R. Levesque Associates took the podium on behalf of Salmar Realty in order to remedy parking and traffic concerns. We have discussed and resolved a few issues with DPW and now, after the site visit, we are requesting approval for work within the buffer zone. He explained in detail, including a sketch, but requested a continuance based on the planning board application timeline. Hammond asked about the height of the proposed fence. Maniscalchi stated that at the site visit it was suggested it be 8' so trash could not be thrown over it. Delaney described the apron and said they would happily accommodate the 8' fence. Hammond mentioned that during the site visit they were concerned with stabilizing the bank when the trees were being removed, as well as the water flow towards the neighbor's house. Levesque said they would mark the trees and use erosion control blankets. Noonan said he would like an analysis including removal and replacement of current materials in that area. Levesque said there will be construction phase inspections including subgrade soil evaluation. Noonan asked that storm water logs be submitted. Maniscalchi asked how snow removal will be handled. Levesque explained the snow areas based on the drawing and it could be trucked off site by a landscape contractor if needed. He submitted a hand sketch of the fence area. He additionally mentioned an area on the left side of the neighbor's garage that, based on how the contractor graded that area, there is now water getting into the garage. It has not been remedied as yet. Goes back two seasons now. Contractor will need to gain access to that area from the homeowner's side of the fence. This area is in the outer buffer zone so a RDA would need to be filed. It is not part of this application.

Susan Crotti took the podium on behalf of Linda Crotti, owner of the neighboring property at 1367 Westfield St. She mentioned that the audience is unable to see the sketches shown by Mr. Levesque and asked for copies of them. She clarified that there was a signed contract between both property owners, and that it is disingenuous that the town is being told that their property is no longer available for purchase when in fact it is. She also confirmed her lack of confidence in fixing the water issue in the garage, as construction goes all the way back to 2013. The new plan still keeps the raised ground level in this area. Extreme caution should be exercised as the current storm water system is not working, and by adding

another piece to continue downgrade, does not believe it will work. Also, the garage is very near the property line and it does not seem like the current plan allows enough of a buffer to remove snow. Feels the problem will be ongoing and will even get worse. The town needs to consider the impact on its citizens. It has been a disaster for 1367 Westfield St. She wants it fixed. Cote thanks her. Levesque addressed Crotti's concerns, commenting they were all disappointed when the deal fell apart. They are working with the land they have. Their plans are functioning well, and it is only a small area between the retaining wall and the garage. The rough grading was addressed with the contractor. To say the current storm water system is not functioning is completely inaccurate. The proposed curbing will be draining away from the neighbor's property and toward the wetlands. Need permission from Crotti to gain access to the troubled area in order to fix the water problem. Again, requires an RDA. Cote asked if this could be done sooner rather than later. Levesque said Peter Martin is waiting on permission. Cote would like an RDA by the next meeting. Will be continued at the next meeting.

Request for Determination of Applicability - 530 Rogers Ave. - Wetland Lines

Cote asked if there was a site visit. Noonan said there was. He needs to look over the plans. Rob Levesque took the podium. There were questions at the site visit along the southern boundary. He had walked the area with Noonan. Explained the revised drawing. There was no public comment and Cote made a motion to continue this at the next meeting.

Request for Certificate of Compliance - 757 Riverdale St. (330-0306) - 757 Riverdale St.

Cote said this will be continued at the next meeting.

Other Business - Piper Green Drainage (330-0328)

Rob Levesque handed out a letter to the commission recapping their inspection of the issues at hand. 65 Duke Street had questions about their property line near the storm water basin. Levesque read the letter and expanded on their findings. Any action at this point is unwarranted. As additional units are built on Country Club Estates, additional drainage will be installed to further divert the water. Cote agreed that rainfall totals are significant. Monitoring is important. What would we look at next if rainfall is normal but the water level remains high in the short term. Levesque responded that looking at the rainfall levels are important. The BVW will always be squishy and maybe the area should not mow so close to the wetland. Cote thanked them for going out and looking at the area. Noonan asked about the possibility of installing a ground water monitor because they have no background data for this area.

Donna Aldrich of 45 Duke St. spoke saying she disagrees with Levesque's finding. The water is more and more everytime it rains. Her sump pump has run constantly this year. Cote reiterated all they are doing to resolve this. Aldrich would like the water diverted and would like a solution soon.

Donna Aldrich of 45 Duke St. spoke saying he disagrees with Levesque's analysis. His response is only buying time. He knows the town benefits greatly from tax revenues of the new units being built, but the residents of Duke St. did not ask for this. They have lost more what they have gained. Levesque does a lot of engineering in town and it will start to be questioned.

Levesque stated there is no water sheet flowing to the Aldrich property. There is no surface water. There has always been groundwater in this area. French drains are not an option because it would cut water off from the wetland. Said he does not appreciate his integrity being called into question.

Donna Aldrich took the podium again saying they have pictures of when it rained, and since they pitched the land toward their property they have had nothing but water since construct began.

Cote said they will continue to look at the project and that the wetland has to remain neutral; you can not add or take away water. They will make sure the approved plan is followed. The project is not complete.

There is a process that has to be followed. He will do what he can within his scope. Mr. Aldrich said he has sent pictures to the planning department. Should not wait until spring. Town residents should not have to pay the price for someone else's mistake.

Cote said he will continue to do all he can do.

Mr. Aldrich said to Mr. Levesque that he was wrong.

Cote adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Darleen Dubiel