

**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes
February 19, 2015 (Thursday)
Marlborough City Hall – 3rd Floor, Memorial Hall
7:00 PM**

Members Present: Edward Clancy-Chairman, John Skarin, David William, Lawrence Roy, and Karin Paquin. Also present was Priscilla Ryder-Conservation Officer.

Absent: Allan White and Dennis Demers

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of February 5, 2015 were reviewed and the Commission unanimously voted to approve with a vote of 5-0.

Public Hearings:

Notice of Intent

Elm St. Culvert – The City of Marlborough Dept. of Public Works

Scott Smyers, wetland consultant with Oxbow Associates and Evan Pilachowski, City Engineer were present. Mr. Saluk of Saluk and Associates, the project engineer was not able to attend. Mr. Smyers explained that the project involves the replacement of the existing culvert on Elm St. which conveys Millham Brook. It has washed out a few times and needs to be replaced. Two box culverts will be installed to replace the one culvert. The culverts are designed to meet the openness ration for stream crossings in the new stream crossing regulations. They need to build up both the upstream and downstream areas to prevent scour and erosion. They will be expanding the bottom of the downstream channel with natural stone to create a low flow and high flow area to be more sensitive to water dependent critters. The floor of the lower culvert which will flow all the time has a groove in it to allow for a low flow channel and passageway for critters. He explained that there are 5 wetland resource areas associated with this project: Land Under Water (LUW), Bank, Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW); and Riverfront Area (RF). The bank will be reconfigured – so changed but not lost; BVW will be altered in several areas, the plan is to replicate this in two locations – one easily accessible from the road in an old “fill” area, the second in the woods further from the road. Alternative locations were discussed and will be inspected once the snow melts. None of these locations were verified in the field by the Conservation Officer due to the 3’ of snow on the ground. The overall impact for LUW and RF are “impact neutral”. Mr. Clancy asked about the construction sequencing plan given that this stream flows all the time and wanted to know the dewatering methods to be used. Mr. Pilachowski indicated that Bruce Saluk can provide this information at the next meeting. Mr. Smyers also indicated that there are some additional catch basins being added to the plan to help with water quality. They will have deep sumps to help capture the sand and debris from entering the stream which is an improvement. After some discussion about the stream flow, the Commission with the applicants consent continued the hearing to the March 19, 2015 meeting.

Notice of Intent

85 Ames St. - Central Steel Supply Co.

Mr. Scott Smyers from Oxbow Associates and Mr. Doucette owner of the property were present. Mr. Smyers explained that they want to add an addition to the building. The new roadway would be within the 100' buffer zone, but a small portion within the 50' buffer zone. 400 sq.ft. will be within the 50' no disturb buffer zone of the Water Supply Protection District which will require relief from the City Council. The work on the roadway will be 44' to the wetland at the closest point. They will be reconfiguring the parking in the back and increasing the impervious surface and are proposing an underground infiltration system to meet the storm water standards. The plan includes an erosion control barrier around the entire site and shows some construction notes which were reviewed on sheet C-2 of the plans. After some discussion, the Commission noted that additional information on the construction sequencing would be required. Ms. Ryder will check the delineation on this plan with the recently approved delineation on the Preserve at Ames (now Talia) plans. If they are the same the Commission can approve this plan, if they are different the applicant will need to wait until the snow is melted to get verification. The Commission with the applicants consent continued the hearing to the March 5th meeting.

Notice of Intent

Lakeside Ave. - Crabtree Lakeshore Williams LLC

Deshang Wang of Creative Land and Water Engineering was present and represented the owners. He explained that they decided to file a separate NOI for the gas line, rather than amending the existing NOI. Because it is a linear project, notification to abutters just needs to be 100 feet on either side of the linear gas line which was simpler. The owners have been negotiating with the Hotel to get the gas connection previously approved on the plans, but have had no luck, therefore they are proposing the installation of a gas line on their property which parallels the back of the Holiday Inn parking lot. A portion of the gas line will cross through a bordering vegetated wetland. The line will be located approximately 5' from the property line. The Commission noted this was within the Water Supply Protection District and asked Ms. Ryder to determine if this project would need to be filed with the City Council as well, given the wetland alteration. She will check. Mr. Wang reviewed the wetland impacted area and the location of the wetland replication area and the plantings to be included in this restoration area. The area to be disturbed is partly mowed and partly shrubs and small trees, which although will be restored to its current grades will require long term maintenance, thus the need for the replication area. Ms. Ryder noted that she had inspected the flags before the snow cover occurred and is OK with the wetland delineation and replication area location. After some brief discussion, the Commission closed the public hearing and a "draft" of the conditions will be reviewed at the next meeting on March 5, 2015.

Notice of Intent DEP 212-1120

358 Berlin Rd. - Marlborough Brazilian SDA Church

At the applicant request the hearing was continued to the March 19th meeting.

Certificate of Compliance

- DEP 212-1131 330 Berlin Rd. – The Commission is still waiting on the deed language required, once this is received a Certificate of Compliance will be considered.

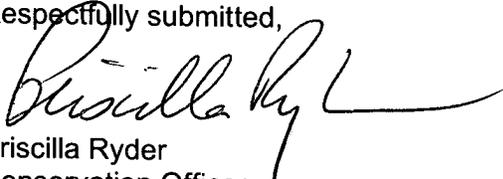
Discussion/Other Business

- Desert – Forest cutting plan (DCR) - Bureau of Forest Fire Control & Forestry – Forest Management Proposal – Hanson Lot – Dated Jan. 21, 2015 - The Commission reviewed this correspondence and discussed the proposal of DCR to do some logging at the Desert Natural Area on the state forest property. The proposal is to do some selective clearing to allow for the regeneration of the pitch pine scrub oak forest type and remove the plantation of “red pines” that were planted there many years ago and are diseased or soon to die due to overcrowding. The Commission has been asked to look at the forest management plan to see if there is any harvesting the city might want to do in conjunction with this harvesting program. Ms. Ryder and Ms. Paquin will be attending a meeting next week to discuss more details and will report back at the next meeting. Comments on the DCR proposal are due March 7th. Ms. Ryder will draft conditions.
- Community Garden sign up will be held this year on March 12, 2015, 7:00 PM @ City Hall Memorial Hall.
- Ft. Meadow Reservoir – Richard Hartley from the Div. of Fish and Wildlife has informed Ms. Ryder that based on his research after our meeting, it appears that a full fish survey of Ft. Meadow Reservoir is long overdue, they will be scheduling a fish survey to be done this coming year, which will provide some data on the fish health of the lake.

Meetings – Next Conservation meetings – March 5th, and March 19th, 2015 (Thursdays)

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,


Priscilla Ryder
Conservation Officer