

**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**October 1, 2015 (Thursday)**

**Marlborough City Hall – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Memorial Hall**

**7:00 PM**

**Present:** Edward Clancy, Chairman, John Skarin, Dennis Demers, Allan White, Larry Roy, and Priscilla Ryder Conservation Officer.

**Absent:** Karin Paquin and Dave Williams

**Minutes:** The minutes of September 17, 2015 were reviewed and unanimously approved.

**Discussion**

- Ft. Meadow – Fall/winter drawdown – October 2015

Lee Thomson Chairman of the Ft. Meadow Commission was present and requested that the Conservation Commission approve a drawdown for this winter to help control the weeds. He had consulted with the Aquatic Control Technology consultants who were hired to manage the weeds on the lake. They recommended the drawdown to help freeze out the plants in the 4' drawdown zone which will help with weed management. He also noted that there was a drain pipe the city wanted to repair. Mr. Clancy asked City Engineer Evan Pilachowski what work needed to be done downstream of the spillway and if it could be accomplished before October 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Pilachowski indicated that yes they could accomplish some of the work in the next two weeks and then would do the remaining work next spring. Mr. Clancy wanted to be sure that the drawdown could occur on or before October 15<sup>th</sup> to ensure that the frogs and turtles don't start hibernating before the drawdown and get frozen out. All were in agreement. The Commission voted unanimously 5-0 to allow the drawdown of 4 feet to begin October 15<sup>th</sup> per the drawdown Order of Conditions. Mr. Thomson will go to Hudson Conservation Commission and request the same.

**Public Hearings:**

Request for Determination of Applicability

811 Pleasant St. - Scott King

Mr. King was present. Mr. Clancy noted that Mr. King had started the garage which is within the 100' buffer zone to a brook without a permit. Mr. King was present to correct this. He had put a large pile of dirt next to the stream, but there is a rock swale in between, so no silt washed into the brook. He has since moved the pile and stabilized the emergency access road. He asked if he got permission from Mr. Deli Prescoli if he could add stone to the driveway. The Commission had no objections. The Commission voted unanimously 5-0 to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability and to allow Mr. King to finish the garage.

## Request for Determination of Applicability

### 25 Union St. – Marlborough Whitcomb Middle School

Johnathan Charwick from Activitas Inc., and Evan Pilachowski, City Engineer were both present. Mr. Charwick presented a plan showing a new turf field at the Whitcomb Middle School. The Commission asked questions about the benefits of artificial turf vs. natural grass fields and the safety of the fields and whether the materials used will mold (i.e. coconut husk items) or have excessive heat issues or fumes from the turf. After much discussion Mr. Charwick explained that the new fields are more reflective and less “hot”, once the materials settles it doesn’t move and the fields are designed to drain well. The field is placed upon a sand and rubber surface and is porous and creates a bit of a reservoir which will slow down runoff. The construction and subgrade materials were discussed. They did testing and the groundwater is 8’ deep so, should not be an issue. The track will be a rubberized track. The drainage between the football field and softball field were discussed. This has been a problem over the years. They will look at this and plan to address it through the site plan review process. They discussed the slight change to the track configuration. The track will be a training track and not an official track. Life span of the turf field is 10-12 years. There will be improved drainage to the field and new paved surfaces. There is a subsurface cultec system and storm-septors and chambers which will help to collect and slow down the water from the site, which will improve the downstream flows. The drains under the field are perforated pipes wrapped in fabric to keep them clean. The project will include erosion controls and a phasing plan. They are planning to start next spring and have it completed by the school year in fall of 2016. Only a small portion of the project falls within the 100’ buffer zone.

After some discussion the Commission voted 5-0 to issue a Negative Determination with Conditions as follows: 1. Repair eroded drainage slope between football and softball field and add riprap to control future drainage; 2. Provide an Operation and Maintenance Plan for the field and paved area to ensure it is properly maintained to optimize performance; 3. Standard conditions about notifying conservation officer before and after project is completed for a site inspection; 4. Contractor is responsible to controlling all runoff from the site and keeping dust under control at all times until the site is stabilized; and 5. When the cultec recharge system is being installed the conservation officer shall inspect the hole before it is installed to ensure the soils are suitable.

### **Correspondence/Other Business:**

#### **Project Updates:**

- 329 Maple St. - All Star Auto – Ms. Ryder indicated that Attorney Bergeron has submitted a letter on behalf of Mr. Donnarumma regarding the bins across the brook. They are to be removed by tomorrow. Ms. Ryder will check on compliance with the letter.

- Millham Reservoir Dam – The DPW has requested permission to put top soil on top of the stone on the downstream side of the dam face that is now rock. This will allow for this area to be mowed which will better protect the integrity of the dam slope face. The Commission noted an NOI should be filed for such work.
- Lizotte Dr. and Williams St. – the property at the corner of these two streets is slated for an office building. They have requested to dig some test holes under the minor activity provision at 310 CMR 10.02 2(b) 2(g). They are permitted to do this preliminary work as a matter of right, and will be filing with the Commission soon if the project goes forward.
- Williamsburg Heights (behind Home Depot) will be doing repaving of all their roadways this fall. Ms. Ryder checked and all work is outside of the 100' buffer zone. They will provide protection to drainage systems.

**Violations** - Over the last heavy rain event there were washouts at Avalon Bay, the Hotel site and the GE site. However, the contractors on each site were making repairs before I got there and had the sites stabilized by the afternoon. The Commission agreed that no fines were necessary since they were on top of the issues and corrected them quickly.

**Meetings** – Next Conservation meetings – October 15<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (Thursdays)

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Priscilla Ryder *PR*  
Conservation Officer