



Grafton Conservation Commission

MINUTES of the GRAFTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

December 1, 2015

7:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Grafton Conservation Commission was held in the Finance Committee Meeting Room of the Grafton Municipal Center on December 1, 2015. Present were: Co-Chairperson Sandra Brock, Heather Trudell, Peter Finn, Kathleen Theoharides, Conservation Agent Maria Mast, and Conservation Assistant Leah Cameron. Co-Chairperson John Wilson was absent.

Co-Chairperson Sandra Brock opened the public meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Brookmeadow Village Wildlife Corridors – All the lots in the subdivision that contained wildlife corridors included a special condition stating that any corridor that was disturbed must be replanted according to the approved planting plan by November 30 of the same year the disturbance occurred. All of the corridors have been disturbed. Only one has been replanted and the replanting was not done in accordance with the approved planting plan. Normand Gamache of Guerriere & Halnon discussed the project with the Commission. He said that many have been loamed and seeded with turf mix, which was all that they could find, in order to establish something during the growing season. The Conservation Agent explained that the diagram on the planting plan was meant to be an example, yet it was followed exactly. The result is that the plants in the corridor are too sparse and too small, and there is no leaf litter, logs, or boulders present. Co-Chairperson Sandra Brock said that they should have been able to find conservation seed mix somewhere and that people will mistake the areas for lawn, which is what the Commission wanted to avoid. The Commission decided to send a violation letter requiring that the boulders and leaf litter be placed in the corridors for the winter as an interim solution until the spring when the conservation seed mix and shrubs will be available. The letter also requires the installation of corridor signage, as required in the Order of Conditions. The letter sets a deadline of December 15, 2015 for these items, at which point an enforcement order will be issued if the required action is not taken. The Commission also set a deadline of May 30, 2016 for the seeding and planting work in the spring. Co-Chairperson Sandra Brock said that site visits will be necessary to verify the planting layouts in the spring before the plantings actually occur.

Application for Stormwater Management Bylaw Permit #15-008 & Request for Determination of Applicability – Robert & Karen Kell - 207 Providence Road (Assessor's Map 99, Lot 10) – The applicant proposed the construction of a solar array and requested that the Commission determine whether the area and/or the proposed work are subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and/or the Grafton Wetlands Protection Bylaw. They also applied for a Stormwater Management Bylaw Permit. Rich Riccio of Field Engineering Co., Inc. presented the project to the Commission. The project consists of a 0.99 megawatt solar array, access driveway, and two stormwater basins. There is a wetland across the street from the project. Hay bales and silt fence are proposed, including intermediate rows on the slope. Erosion control blankets are proposed on the 3:1 slopes. Silt sacs are proposed in the catch basins along Providence Road. A concrete washout is proposed. Any stockpiles over 8 feet high will be enclosed by silt fence. A crushed stone edge drain is proposed along the access driveway. The project was peer reviewed by Graves Engineering, Inc. Co-Chairperson Sandra Brock said that the Commission will need a copy of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), as well as a copy of the permission granted by National Grid for the project to occur within their easement. She asked if crushed stone and swales were considered at each row of panels instead of directing stormwater to detention basins. Rich Riccio said that this design was too cost prohibitive. He confirmed that they will need to grub the whole site and that they will be starting in the fall of 2016. He also said that they are working on determining whether the federally-listed long eared bat is present on site. Co-Chairperson Sandra Brock asked if they are

going to encounter seasonal high groundwater. Rich Riccio said that they will and that Graves Engineering, Inc. suggested raising the outlets on the basins as a result. The Conservation Agent pointed out that Massachusetts guidelines should be followed regarding the distance between intermediate erosion control rows on slopes. Co-Chairperson Sandra Brock said that the Commission prefers to see low impact development (LID) measures, such as less filter fabric because it clogs. Rich Riccio said that a clover seed mix is proposed for the site because it provides butterfly and bee habitat and is low growth, so it requires less maintenance. The Commission is awaiting a project estimate in order to determine a potential surety bond amount. Heather Trudell made a motion, seconded by Kathleen Theoharides, to continue the public hearing for 207 Providence Road to December 15, 2015 at the applicant's request. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Determination of Applicability – Ross Sciarro – 25 Upton Street (Assessor's Map 74, Lot 83)
– The applicant is proposing the placement of two mobile homes in their yard and requests that the Commission determine whether the area and/or proposed work are subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and/or the Grafton Wetlands Protection Bylaw. James Flagg II of Emergency Temporary Housing presented the project to the Commission. He explained that the project has changed to one mobile home which will be located farther from the wetland. The mobile home is needed as temporary housing while the home is rebuilt due to fire. The only ground disturbance will be for the required tie-ins. Utilities will be run above ground from the house. Peter Finn asked if the mobile home is motorized, which would require fluids. James Flagg II said that this is not the case. Co-Chairperson Sandra Brock requested that they sketch in the new location of the mobile home on their existing plan. Heather Trudell made a motion, seconded by Peter Finn, to issue a negative determination with the condition that the mobile home be temporarily utilized for a period of one year. The motion carried unanimously.

November 17, 2015 Meeting Minutes – Heather Trudell made a motion, seconded by Peter Finn, to accept the November 17, 2015 meeting minutes as drafted. Co-Chairperson Sandra Brock was in agreement. Kathleen Theoharides was absent from that meeting and thus abstained.

Peter Finn made a motion, seconded by Kathleen Theoharides, to adjourn at 8:08 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

Documents discussed located in the Conservation Commission office:

Order of Conditions, Planting Plan, & Violation Letter dated December 2, 2015 for Brookmeadow Village
Application for Stormwater Management Bylaw Permit, Request for Determination of Applicability, & Graves Engineering, Inc.
peer review correspondence dated September 10, 2015, October 21, 2015, & October 26, 2015 for 207 Providence Road
Request for Determination of Applicability & Determination of Applicability for 25 Upton Street
Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2015
Agent's Report to the Commissioners dated December 1, 2015

Minutes drafted by Leah Cameron
Approved on December 15, 2015