



Acton Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 19th, 2023

7:15 PM

Virtual Meeting

Present: Terry Maitland (Chair), Jim Colman, Kate Warwick, Zywia Chadzynska, Amy Green, Peter Hocknell, Jillian Peters

Absent: N/A

Conservation Agent: Mike Gendron

7:15 The Chairman, Terry Maitland opened the meeting and read virtual meeting guidelines.

Regular Business

7:22 **Notice of Intent:** 75 Robbins Street; DEP 85-1345

Kate Warwick recused herself from the hearing as a direct abutter. Representing the applicant was Scott Hayes of Forsite Engineering. Scott explained the scope of the project to build a house and deck addition inside the wetland buffer zone. Scott showed that the existing setback to the house and deck are 61 feet and 57 feet, respectively. No new structure is proposed within the existing nonconformance. Scott stated that there are three trees in the area of the construction, one of which is proposed to be removed. Three new native trees are proposed along the property edge.

Amy Green asked what the plan was for the additional roof runoff. Scott stated that there is no additional stormwater management proposed. Amy would like to see small infiltration for the roof and gutter runoff; Scott agreed to look into adding crushed stone or underground infiltration.

Hearing no further comments/questions the Chairman announced that the hearing would be **continued to the virtual meeting on May 3rd at 7:30pm.**

7:50 **Notice of Intent:** 174 Arlington Street; DEP 85-1345

Representing the applicant was Aidan Schlotman of Stamski & McNary. Aidan showed the plan and explained that the proposal is for an addition between the house and garage. The existing deck will be removed and replaced with the addition; minor grading will be required. Aidan showed that the current setback to the garage is 42 feet; the proposed addition is 55 feet from the wetland.

Jim Colman stated that the commission guidance does view a garage and house to be “similar” in structure. Zywia Chadzynska asked where stock piling would take place; Aidan explained that the stock piling would be outside the buffer zone.



Hearing no further comments/questions the Chairman closed the hearing.

Hearing closed at 7:56 PM.

Decision

Jim moved to issue an Order of Conditions with the special condition that the stock piling must be outside the buffer zone and labeled on the plan.

Amy seconded and the roll call vote was unanimous.

7:58 **Notice of Intent:** 2 Taylor Road; DEP 85-1344 (continued)

Representing Acton Conservation was Mike Gendron. Mike showed the major updates since the last hearing including a more detailed plan and a list of native fish that would be chosen from for the pond. Mike went on to describe the project in detail and show images of what the project would look like when completed.

Peter Hocknell and Zywia pointed out there were some inconsistencies in the NOI showing the pond in different locations; Mike explained that the old plan had the pond inside the 75-foot setback but the current plan moved the location of the pond.

Mike showed the proposed area for erosion control and asked the commission if they agree with that location. After some deliberation on the location of the erosion control, the commission decided that it makes sense to have this be determined out in the field.

Hearing no further comments/questions the Chairman closed the hearing.

Hearing closed at 8:19 PM.

Decision

Jim moved to issue an Order of Conditions, with one special condition that the location of the erosion control shall be determined by the Agent and a Commissioner prior to construction.

Amy seconded and the roll call vote was unanimous.

8:21 **Notice of Intent:** Main Street Sewer Connection; DEP 85-1348

Representing the applicant was Alexa Marquis, Sam Campbell, Ashley Reed and Paul Milewski of GPI. Alexa explained the scope of work which includes bidirectional drilling underneath main street to extend the existing sewer lines and a small pump station proposed inside the buffer zone. Alexa showed the location of the pump station across from route 2; She stated that all work associated with the pump station was outside of the 75-foot setback.



Sam explained that the location of the pump station was chosen to accommodate the future use of this site for a dog park. Jim stated that he would like to see the pump station moved outside of the 100-foot buffer zone and let a dog park that may or may not happen work around the sewer design.

Amy pointed out that the potential vernal pool was not flagged on the plan so there is no way to determine if the work is proposed inside the 100-foot setback for vernal pools. Sam agreed to set up a site walk, get the vernal pool flagged and consider moving the pump station outside the buffer zone.

Hearing no further comments/questions the Chairman announced that the hearing would be **continued to the virtual meeting on May 3rd at 7:35pm.**

9:04 **Notice of Intent:** 19 Keefe Road; DEP 85-13xx

Representing the applicant was Bert Hamill. Bert explained that area of the proposed work is almost entirely located inside the wetland buffer zone and riverfront area. Bert showed the proposed work on the plan including a small shed, fence, bollards, retaining wall and pavement repairs.

Bert acknowledged that this plan puts constraints on the neighbors and they will be meeting with them to discuss how they can minimize impacts on the neighbors and wetlands.

Jim Colman stated that retaining wall cannot be within 75 feet of the wetland, so that change needs to be made. He also explained that there needs to be a solution to make sure snow is not pushed into the brook and finally the debris/invasives along the brook shall be removed.

Amy requested that there should be an existing condition plan to show what the current issues on the parcel are. Jim stated that it may be useful to approach DPW to find out who is responsible for the culvert on the other side of keefe road which has a pipe running underneath the proposed bollards. Peter expressed concern about the bollards impacting the culvert.

Hearing no further comments/questions the Chairman announced the virtual hearing would be continued to **May 17th at 7:30 pm.**

9:35 **Notice of Intent:** 12 Spring Hill Road; DEP 85-13xx

Representing the applicant was Scott Goddard of Goddard Consulting. Scott explained that this project had previously been before the commission but they recently withdrew and refiled. Scott went on to explain the details of the plan including a stream crossing



using a box culvert, replication areas, the location of a SFH, an alternatives analysis, stormwater peer review, a tree survey, etc.

The commission had the following comments/questions/feedback:

1. The alternatives analysis is not complete because the applicant did not look at the possibility of a smaller house on the property
2. A bridge design and analysis of the impact it would have on the wetland vs a box culvert
3. Evaluation of the wetland fill near the stream crossing
4. Provide most up to date stream crossing report
5. Addition of boulders and/or signs along the driveway
6. Add all previous abutter comments from old filing to the new package

Abutters shared the following concerns about the project:

1. Cutting down trees will destabilize the very tall pines on the abutting properties
2. Increased stormwater runoff to abutting properties
3. Impacted ecosystem and wildlife
4. Complicated Operation & Maintenance plan that will be hard for a home owner to follow

Hearing no further comments/questions the Chairman stated that the hearing would be continued to the virtual meeting on **May 17th at 7:35 pm.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Documents and exhibits used at this meeting:

NOI Filing for 75 Robbins Street; DEP 85-1345
NOI Filing for 174 Arlington Street; DEP 85-1345
NOI Filing for 2 Taylor Road; DEP 85-1344
NOI Filing for Main Street Sewer Connection; DEP 85-1348
NOI Filing for 19 Keefe Road; DEP 85-13xx
NOI Filing for 12 Spring Hill Road; DEP 85-13xx

All documents can be found at: <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-16536>