

**TOWN OF ACTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes
December 6, 2017
7:15 PM
TOWN HALL - 472 MAIN STREET
ROOM 204**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Terry Maitland, William Froberg, Amy Green, Jim Colman, Tim McKinnon, Jennifer Stolz, Paula Goodwin

NATURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR & RECORDING SECRETARY: Tom Tidman

VISITORS: Bettina Abe, Mark Lavallie, Bruce Ringwall, Bonnie Geither, Bevere Rinowice, Renee Soluk, Carolyn Kiely

7:30 Notice of Intent: 153 Summer Street

Paul Gaboury of Mosaic Homes LLC is the applicant for a project at 153 Summer Street (town atlas plate F1, parcel 15). The project is the construction of a single family house, driveway, septic system and associated grading. The house falls within 100 feet of wetlands.

Mark Lavallie, from GPR presented for the applicant. He was accompanied by Bruce Ringwall, a principal of GPR. An ANRAD was approved in the summer of 2017. At that time, site walks were arranged with the Commission, so most of them had visited and were familiar with the site. The wetlands had been flagged by Oxbow Associates.

A four-bedroom dwelling was being proposed. Board of Health approval has not yet been granted. The proposed house is to be built in approximately the same location as the original house that had been removed. The location of the house extends right up to the 75 foot wetlands setback. The proposed patio extends into the 75 foot setback. Straw wattles will be used along the limit of work. It was also pointed out that the septic system is outside the 100 foot buffer zone.

Mr. McKinnon asked for more information about the patio. Mr. Lavallie said it would be a blue stone patio, set at grade level. Mr. Colman noted that there was erosion on the steep bank along the edge of the property and asked if there would be any planting improvements proposed. Mr. Ringwall pointed out that the erosion was on the lot to the left of this one, not on this lot. Mr. Froberg asked if the natural line of trees at the top of the slope would be left intact, and Mr. Ringwall responded that, yes, the row of trees behind the existing cart path at the top of the slope would remain intact. Ms. Green said the Commission would like to see pervious pavers used for the patio.

The Hearing closed at 7:55.

Decision: Mr. Froberg moved to issue a standard Order of Conditions with the following special conditions:

1. The construction of a deck within 75 feet of wetlands is not permitted.
2. The surface of the patio will be of a pervious nature.

Mr. Colman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

7:45 Notice of Intent: 2 Taylor Road, Acton Arboretum

The Town of Acton Natural Resources Department is the applicant for a project at 2 Taylor Road, the Acton Arboretum (town atlas plate F3-A, parcel 76). The project is the installation of an accessible walking path and footbridge within 100 feet of bordering vegetated wetlands.

Mr. Tidman, Natural Resources Director for the Town of Acton and Bettina Abe, Natural Resources Assistant presented the project. Mr. Tidman described the area where the proposed bridge would be built as a farm ditch with Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) on both sides. The trail and bridge would connect the Rhododendron Garden to the Fragrance Garden with a handicapped accessible trail.

Ms. Abe outlined the groups that have been involved with the design of the project. She then described the current state of the project and the proposed plan to execute its completion. She explained that non-native invasive honey suckle and multiflora rose has already been removed. She would like to hire Lenox Landscaping Inc. to remove the remaining stumps and rocks and prepare the trail during the winter months when the ground is partially frozen to minimize disturbance.

The bridge would be 12 feet long by 4 feet wide, with a 10 foot boardwalk section on the west side and a 20 foot section on the east side. Mr. McKinnon asked if pressure treated lumber would be used for the boardwalk. Ms. Abe responded, yes, it was planned. Mr. McKinnon pointed out alternative products, including aluminum and Trex, that were affordable and would not contaminate the wetland soils by leaching toxic chemicals as pressure treated wood would do.

Ms. Green asked how long the boardwalk sections would be and Ms. Abe responded that they would be 10 and 20 feet. Mr. Colman asked if the boardwalk sills would prevent the flow of water in the wetlands? Mr. Tidman responded that the boardwalk would be slightly elevated. Ms. Green if any of the plants, such as the bamboo, might be considered invasive, and Ms. Abe said they had been selected to not spread.

Mr. McKinnon asked if they could find a product other than pressure treated wood to be used in the wetlands to build the boardwalk. Ms. Abe responded that they have used corrugated drain pipe that could work in this case.

Mr. Colman said that it was mentioned large rocks in the bottom of the ditch and the stream would be moved. He preferred that they be left in place. Mr. Tidman agreed to do that.

Ms. Green noted that the plan didn't show where the hay wattles would be placed and asked if they could be added to the plan.

Mr. Maitland noted that there were a number of questions that needed to be addressed. He continued the hearing to January 3, at 7:20 PM.

Decision: The Hearing was continued to January 3rd, 7:20 PM.

8:00 Hybid Farm License Renewal

Rita McConnon, President of Hybid Farm Inc., requests renewal of the license agreement.

Mr. Froberg moved to approve the renewal of the license agreement, Ms. Goodwin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Certificate of Compliance

Quail Ridge DEP File #85-986: no action

Minutes:

November 1, 2017: Reviewed by TMc, AG

Decision: Mr. McKinnon moved to accept the minutes of November 1, Ms. Green seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

November 15, 2017: Reviewed by TMc, JS, PG

Decision: Mr. McKinnon moved to accept the minutes of November 15, Ms. Green seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM



Terry Maitland
Chairperson

CONSERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA

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November 1, 2017: Reviewed by TMc, AG

November 15, 2017: Reviewed by TMc, JS, PG

12-06-2017

File	Owner	Modified Date	Size	Actions
001 - Agenda 12-06-2017	naturales	12/04/17	9 KB	...
020 - 05-1229 153 Summer St NOI	naturales	12/05/17	5 MB	...
021 - 05-1229 - 183 Summer St Site Plan	naturales	12/05/17	1 MB	...
020 - 05-1230 - 2 Taylor Rd Arboratum China Trail NOI Packet	naturales	12/06/17	2 MB	...
040 - 2018 Hybrid Farm License Agreement 12-14-16	naturales	11/27/17	534 KB	...
041 - 2018 request for renewal	naturales	11/27/17	21 KB	...
042 - License Renewal Reply Letter	naturales	11/27/17	322 KB	...

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