



**CITY OF GARDNER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Gardner City Hall – Manca Annex
115 Pleasant St., Room 202

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MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 13, 2017

Members Present:

David Beauregard, Donna Lehtinen, Jane Cullen, Chairman Greg Dumas and Agent Jeffrey Legros.

Members Absent:

Norman Beauregard, David Orwig and Duncan Burns

Public Hearings:

6:00 The Gardner Conservation Commission held a joint Public Hearing under MGL, Ch. 131, § 40, Wetlands Protection Act and the City of Gardner Wetlands Protection Ordinance (City Code Ch. 650) on the **Notice of Intent** filed by **The City of Gardner, Department of Public Works and Engineering Dept.** for the construction of two (2) buildings to be located on **Manca Drive** to the south of the existing DPW facilities at **416 West Broadway**. The proposed buildings will share the same parcel of land as the existing DPW facilities and will consist of a 5,600 Sq. foot office building with an associated 31-space parking area and a 14,080 sq. foot cold-storage building. The project will also include site grading and drainage infrastructure within the Riverfront Area of Pond Brook.

Brian Sullivan of Bayside Engineering presented new plans which addressed DEP Comments. Bayside will be approaching the Zoning Board for a variance from 30ft to 18 ft. Fully revised plans have been submitted. Chairman Dumas inquired about a maintenance plan for the site. The plan is included in the proposal and is satisfactory to the Commission and its Agent. Entire project is expected to take 8-9 months.

6:25 Motion made by David Beauregard seconded by Donna Lehtinen to close the hearing. Voted unanimously in favor.

Request for Determination of Applicability:

6:26 The Gardner Conservation Commission held a joint Public Meeting under MGL, Ch. 131, § 40, Wetlands Protection Act and the City of Gardner Wetlands Protection Ordinance (City Code Chapt. 650) on the **Request for Determination of Applicability** filed by George Ouellet, 199 Bickford Hill Road, to determine if the proposed work located at **Lot 47 Nicolle Terrace (W22-21-16)** and within the Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and Ordinance.

Ms. Rachel Catlow, representing George Ouellet briefly described the project. Agent Legros presented a copy of the plan for the Commissions review and described his site visit findings. Based on his site visit Agent Legros indicated his general agreement with the wetland delineation flagging done by Mr. Charles Caron. In addition the limit of work, defined by the erosion control straw bales and silt fence, as shown on the plan, demonstrated that all site work, grading, and construction will occur outside of the 60-foot 'No Build' Zone. Given this Agent Legros did not have any issues and does not anticipate any negative impacts to the adjacent wetland resource area from the proposed work within the buffer zone.

6:31 A motion was made by David Beauregard to issue a Negative Determination #3. The motion was seconded by Donna Lehtinen and voted unanimously, all in favor.

Minutes:

6:32 Vote to Approve the Minutes of the Meeting of January 23, 2017.

A motion was made by Jane Cullen to accept the Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2017. The motion was seconded by David Beauregard and voted unanimously, all in favor.

Enforcement Order:

6:33 Sunshine Realty Trust, Conrad Donell Trustee, Sapphire Park at Pearl Street and Shawn Avenue (*Continued from Meeting of January 23, 2017*)

Agent states nothing new to report. Commission requests to leave this item on Agenda until after the final peer review site inspection to assess restoration establishment success is completed.

Presentations

6:34 Mr. Steve Coswell, Plantscape Services, LLC. Status update and request for continuing work under an existing Determination of Applicability (1999-2-26, Watkins Cemetery Plan) related to landscape and vegetation management work

located at Crystal Lake Cemetery, Watkins Family Plot, and adjacent to Crystal Lake.

Mr. Mike Hermanson representative for Mr. Coswell addressed the Commission regarding request for RDA extension on a 3 year cycle. New plans will be submitted. Agent Legros read a letter from Mr. Coswell regarding proposed cutting of 25-30 trees. The Commission expressed that it has been very pleased with the work Mr. Coswell has done at the site. Mr. Hermanson also informed the Commission that Mr. Coswell will likely be coming before the Commission again with new plans to plant trees, garden along the water way. Discussion is in process with the Watkins Family to establish a perpetual care plan not just for the garden but along the water way as well.

- 6:44** A motion was made by D. Beauregard to write a letter to Mr. Coswell and representatives of Mr. Watkins confirming the Commission's approval of the continuation of work under RDA 1999-2-26 for a period of three additional years. The motion was seconded by D. Lehtinen and voted unanimously, all in favor.

New Business

- **MACC Environmental Conference** will be held March 4, 2017. If anyone is interested in attending please get back to Agent by month end. David Beauregard is interested in attending.

Old Business

- **Landscape Partnership Grant Update: Alisaukas Appraisal – Notice to Proceed**
Work on survey is underway, title search proposals being written
- **Conservation Commission Land Records Update**
Conservation land is correctly filed under the City of Gardner. However, wording on Deed(s) needs to be updated and contain conservation restriction language. Work continues on this project.
- **Wetlands Protection Ordinance (City Code Chpt. 650) Regulations**
Agent continues work on this project and hopes to connect with resources at the Annual MACC Conference in March.
- **Clearing of Land at 300 Clark Street**
Land Owner has been served buy Sheriff – leaving notice in door. Commission ask Agent to inquire with Sherriff why not personally delivered. Agent to send a letter to new owner of subdivided lot Jason and Ashley Chicoine.
- **Olde English Village Stormwater Replacement Project Update**
Letter sent and received. OEV will be contacting us.

- **MWCC Parking Area Expansion and Improvement Project**
Agent met with MWCC to discuss NOI submission and review plan. Stormwater Best Management Practices and consideration of necessary protections and permitting within the Zone A and Zone B of a Surface Water Supply Protection Area were recommended by the Agent. Commission should expect NOI late February or early March of this year.
- **Forest Cutting Plans: NCLT Rome Cons. Area (H42-24-1A); Matthews Street, (W37-21-1)**
Agent is satisfied with the plans submitted and the Forester has a very good reputation that is overseeing the project at Rome. Matthews Street has filed an Amended Plan and will commence soon.

Other:

- Chairman Dumas asked the Commission Members if they would be in support of a letter to Trevor Beauregard requesting a salary increase for Agent Legros. All are very much in favor of the Chairman submitting this request. Agent Legros has done a fantastic job, an increase is appropriate based on both the amount and quality of his work. The Agents salary is low compared to other Conservation Agents who are also responsible for landuse planning and management activities.
- Commission discussed stipends currently \$500 per year per member. Given the amount of time spent to attend and prepare for 2 meetings monthly 1-2 ½ hours each, and in addition new projects, site visits, and printing of our own agendas, meeting minutes etc. A moderate increase should be considered to bring the Commission equal with that of the planning board.

Motion to Adjourn

7:20 A motion to adjourn was made by Donna Lehtinen. The motion was seconded by David Beauregard and voted unanimously, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey D. Legros, Conservation Agent

All materials used at the meeting are available for viewing at the office of the Conservation Agent, Room 202 of the City Hall Annex.

Minutes are available as follows:

- Minutes are available on the City of Gardner website (www.gardner-ma.gov) under Conservation Commission.
- By appointment or request in Conservation Agent's office, Room 202 of the City Hall Annex
- Community Development & Planning office, Room 201 of the City Hall Annex