



**CITY OF GARDNER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

978-630-4014

Gardner, MA 01440

fax 978-632-1905

MEETING

Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Due to the ongoing conditions related to the COVID 19 outbreak, the meeting will be held via Zoom Meeting. Detailed instructions for participating in the meeting via Zoom Meeting are posted at the bottom of this agenda, or can be obtained by emailing Lyndsy Butler, Conservation Agent, at lbutler@gardner-ma.gov. All documents and permit applications can be provided electronically. Please send request to lbutler@gardner-ma.gov. All persons interested in this matter, or who desire to offer testimony, are invited to participate.

Members via Zoom:

Chairman Greg Dumas, Michael Hermanson, David Orwig, Donna Lehtinen, and Duncan Burns. Also on Zoom was Conservation Agent Lyndsy Butler, and Administrative Clerk Kris Singer

Members Absent:

Norman Beauregard & David Beauregard

Guests & Visitors:

Sam Campbell – GPI, Inc.; Steve Powers – Representing National Guard; Erin Hilley – National Guard; and Michael Gautreau – National Guard

MEETING – brought to Order by Chairman G. Dumas at 6:30 pm

Minutes

Vote to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of April 26, 2021

- Motion to approve Minutes “as printed” made by M. Hermanson, seconded by D. Lehtinen, and voted all in favor, with D. Orwig abstaining.

Request for Determination of Applicability

2021-06

The Gardner Conservation Commission will hold a joint Public Meeting under MGL, Ch. 131, § 40, Wetlands Protection Act and the City of Gardner Wetlands Protection Ordinance on the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by GPI, Inc. on behalf of the City of Gardner, for work to be conducted at 1010 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440 (42-25-1). Proposed work is for geotechnical borings and is located within the resource area.

- Sam Campbell from GPI, Inc explained that the borings are proposed in the buffer zone, but no other work will be done in those areas. The borings are needed for the geo-tech report for the bike path's bridge which will go over Route 140. The borings will be created by drilling on an ATV.
- S. Campbell's drawings show 7 borings in total, with 5 in the resource area. He also knows he will have to come back to the Conservation Commission to file a Notice of Intent.
- In terms of time-frame, S. Campbell advised that they would like to do the borings as soon as possible, but estimates construction work won't be started for another 1 or 2 years.
- D. Orwig asked how long will it take to create the borings, and S. Campbell advised only a day or two.
- D. Burns inquired as to how deep the borings will go, and S. Campbell advised a maximum of 30 feet.
- Motion to grant a Negative 3 Determination was made by D. Lehtinen, seconded by D. Orwig, and voted all in favor.

Notice of Intent

DEP#160-064

The Gardner Conservation Commission will hold a joint Public Hearing under MGL, Ch. 131, § 40, Wetlands Protection Act and the City of Gardner Wetlands Protection Ordinance on a Notice of Intent filed by Michael Gautreau on behalf of Massachusetts Army National Guard, for the replacement and expansion of an existing parking lot located at 321 West Broadway (R17-11-14). Project is located within the buffer to a vegetated wetland.

- Steve Powers, representing the Army National Guard, explained that the property in question is located near the intersection of Route 68 and 2A. It was flagged in April, noting that the wetlands surround the property. It's also noted that the ground water is high in some areas. The proposal is to replace the asphalt in the parking lot which encroaches into the vegetated wetlands.
- L. Butler noted that a DEP# hasn't been issued yet, despite the number listed on the agenda.

- M. Hermanson noted that the Commission had approved work for a parking lot in the recent past. Is this the same proposal? Erin Hilley from the National Guard explained that the previous approved work was to do the patching of the parking lot to get the project to where it is now.
- G. Dumas asked if patching work was done by the storm drains, and E. Hilley did not think so.
- S. Powers noted that there is no storm water conveyance presently on site.
- S. Powers also noted that in the proposed work, they try to pull away from the vegetated wetlands as much as possible. The current proposal actually gives back to the wetlands in the form of new lawn. He also noted that no permanent structure is going into the No Build zone, but there will be asphalt. In total, 1,000 to 1,200 square feet will be given back to the wetland area in their proposal. He also noted that straw waddles and a stake fence will be put up for the entirety of the project.
- S. Powers noted that the parking lot service the facility and they are bringing the lot up to ADA compliance by providing handicap spaces. A total of 58 spaces are proposed.
- The proposal also includes a new catch basin near Route 2A.
- A dumpster and a storage container will be placed on concrete pads on the property.
- In regards to storm water management, pea gravel diaphragm is proposed to stem the flow of storm water across the property. The goal is to try to infiltrate the water back into the ground. The proposal includes underground drains for the parking lot. Also, the chain link fence which runs around the property will be replaced by hand (not with any machinery) as necessary.
- G. Dumas inquired about a long-term maintenance plan. S. Powers says that it includes sweep the parking lot twice per year, inspecting the underground drains, and the pea gravel will be replaced as necessary.
- M. Hermanson asked if the telephone-like structures will be removed, and S. Powers confirmed that the old exercise equipment will be removed and replaced with new equipment. Michael Gautreau confirmed that the telephone poles have been removed.
- D. Orwig wants to see a Maintenance Plan noting everything that was mentioned for a long-term Maintenance Plan. G. Dumas echoed that sentiment, and said that he wants accountability for a Maintenance Plan. S. Powers can accommodate that request. He also added that there will be a 'construction exit' where the trucks will be made to clean their tires.
- G. Dumas inquired about snow storage. S. Powers noted that snow storage is planned for the northern and southern portions of the property. G. Dumas expressed concern if that was enough space.
- G. Dumas asked about timing of the start of the work, and S. Powers doesn't have a final answer, but is being pushed to start, expecting bids to go out for work in the fall. D. Burns asked if funding has already been secured for the project or is it just being applied for now? S. Powers doesn't have an answer for that question at

this time, but can confirm that the project is moving forward with the required permitting. He is unsure about the actual construction.

- Motion to continue the case to the May 24th meeting was made by D. Burns, seconded by D. Lehtinen, and voted all in favor.

New Business

Approve Certificate of Compliance for 203 Dyer Street

- L. Butler said that the house was built in 1991, across from the recently approved pump station. She saw no issues of concern.
- A Motion to approve the Certificate of Compliance was made by D. Burns, seconded by D. Lehtinen, and voted all in favor.

Old Business

445 Park Street

- L. Butler went by the site and confirmed there is a small wetland on the property. She stated that the homeowner is making improvements to the lawn 85 feet away from the wetland. The homeowner was unaware of any potential damage being done and there was no malintent. The homeowner did place rocks around the wetland and he is trying to keep it clean.

Ratification of Emergency Certificate issued to DPW

- L. Butler advise that it just needs signatures.
- Motion to ratify the Emergency Certificate to the DPW was made by D. Burns, seconded by D. Orwig, and voted all in favor.

140 S. Main St.

- D. Burns noted that polluted soil was removed and the site has been seeded. He is impressed with the work.

New School

- L. Butler has not been back on site since the last meeting, and she can arrange a site visit for the Commission.
- G. Dumas noted that in some pictures he has seen, he was shocked by people being allowed to stand on the ledges, as it didn't seem safe.
- L. Butler confirms that there is erosion control on site and it looks good.

Upcoming Meetings

May 24

June 14

June 28

7:07 pm A motion to adjourn was made by D. Burns. The motion was seconded by D. Lehtinen, and voted unanimously, all in favor.

NOTICE: These Agenda items consist of items that are reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting and are specifically allowed to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Agent of the Conservation Commission

Lyndsy Butler is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Conservation Commission

Time: May 10, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98813277005?pwd=NHphRFFlNVZOZ2s2ZmtlZ0gzdklGUT09>

Meeting ID: 988 1327 7005

Passcode: 228023

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