

**MINUTES OF THE
HALIFAX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
March 26, 2019**

A meeting of the Halifax Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 in the Conservation Commission office. Chairperson Gerry Fitzgerald opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

**In Attendance: Ed Lane, Member; Gerry Fitzgerald, Chairperson; Chris Hadorn, Member
Absent: Kathy Evans, Vice Chairperson; John Peck, Member**

Open 7:00p.m. – 330 Plymouth St., NOI

Present: Casey Birch, Civil Engineer from Soli Engineering and Brad Holmes, Wetland Scientist from Environmental Consulting and Restoration LLC.

Casey Birch advised the Commission of recommended changes by the Planning Board's engineer to the submitted plan. One of the comments provided to him was there was a desire to increase the recharge in the basins. The bottom of the basin was increased and structured to detain more water and recharge more water into the ground. We needed to make this classified RCP class 5 pipe. We also raised the pipe elevation. During high storm events, we've installed a paved leak off to handle the overflow.

William Alger stated the land never was wetlands. Gerry stated that's the town's responsibility – they made it wet. Gerry stated John Peck has plans to correct his part of the issue. Mr. Birch stated he will try to divert water to the other side. Chris Hadorn stated the bank is a separate issue and they need to correct what they are doing. Gerry stated there is no DEP file number assigned yet to this project. Mr. Birch stated he called today but the person they deal with at the DEP was out. They will check on this. Mr. Birch went on to say they could put in an alternate pipe for overflow if needed.

Gerry entertained a motion to continue this discussion on April 9, 2019

**Motion: Ed Lane
Second: Chris Hadorn
AIF**

610 Monponsett St.

Present: Joe Webby, Webby Engineering

Joe Webby stated this is a septic upgrade project. We are proposing a septic tank which is a hoop system, so it has secondary treatment. It will be going into a leaching field in front of the house and will not impact the pond in any way. There is no increase in flow or bedrooms. This plan was approved by BOH

Gerry entertained a motion to approve 610 Monponsett St. with Standard Order of Conditions

**Motion: Chris Hadorn
Second: Ed Lane
AIF**

30 Oak Place

Present: Joe Webby, Webby Engineering

Joe Webby introduced Tia Vera and Brett Murray. Tia owns the existing dwelling and it abuts Crystal Lake. Tia would like to demolish the existing house and build a house the same size so that the back of the new house will be right where the back of the existing house is. The septic system was installed ten years ago and has a good Title V. They will be going before the Zone of Appeals. Gerry asked if it would be any closer to the water than the existing house. Tia answered no.

Gerry entertained a motion to approve subject to the Zoning Board of Appeals approval with Standard Order of Conditions

Motion: Ed Lane

Second: Chris Hadorn

AIF

8 Tenth Ave.

Present: Mike Pimental with JC Engineering

Mike stated this project is for the upgrade of a cesspool system. There are currently two cesspools which will be upgraded. It will consist of a monolithic tank followed by a monolithic pump chamber. It will be surrounded by a retaining wall and pump uphill to a distribution box and into a plastic chamber system. The work will be 100.5' from pond. None of the work will impact the pond. Haybales will be installed. The BOH has approved the plan.

Gerry entertained a motion to approve 8 Tenth Ave.

Motion: Ed Lane

Second: Chris Hadorn

AIF

241 Franklin St. – Solar Farm

Present: Mike McGonigle, Conaco Engineers, Steve Ivas, John Novak

Under the original OOC, after land clearing at the southern and southerly location, the trees are 90-100' in height. The solar array is significantly shaded by these trees. Mr. McGonigle stated he had an extensive discussion at a meeting that Gerry Fitzgerald was not present for, asking for allowances to trim these trees down.

Steve Ivas then reviewed the original report he presented. He said he would like to take the trees down to 30' and that is called polliting. The white pines will grow back. He said the habitat becomes more hybrid, more shrubs will grow because of more light and there will be more wildlife visiting the area. Gerry stated this should have all been reviewed before the start of the project. He also stated they were allowed to cut right up to the 50' no touch zone. The DEP is the governing authority when it comes to entering and altering the 50' no touch zone. Ed stated there could be more disease and insects infecting the trees if they are cut. Steve Ivas stated cutting the trees will create more habitat with logs and such, not a fire hazard. Mike McGonigle stated they do not believe many of the trees will die. Mr. Ivas also stated that if there is a windy day, some of the trees could come down on the array. Gerry stated he is not against the project, but does not want anything cut. Ed stated he is also against it. Gerry asked if they could raise the panels. Mike answered it's possible but it becomes a problem in high winds. Mike asked if they could provide further expert opinions on trimming the trees, so they could possibly move forward. He would replace any trees that die. Chris asked Mike to point out the part of the array that is shaded. Mike pointed it out and stated it's about 35% shaded from noon on. The financial consequences are extreme. He stated there has got to be something they can do to mitigate the Commission's stance. Gerry said no, not in his opinion. The 50' no touch is the 50' no touch. That doesn't change. Mike asked for more time to come up with a plan. Chris stated he does not want to see

the site sit empty, but he will not vote to go into the wetlands at all. Mike stated he could entertain a reduction in the size of the proposed project, and cut down the amount of area impacted. He would like to go back to the developer and then come before the Commission again to present a final attempt at getting the site stabilized. Perhaps a terraced cutting might work.

Gerry entertained a motion to continue until April 9, 2019

Motion: Ed Lane
Second: Chris Hadorn
AIF

Secretarial:

Gerry: Entertained a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2019

Motion: Ed Lane
Second: Chris Hadorn
AIF

Gerry: entertained a motion to approve bills

Motion: Ed Lane
Second: Chris Hadorn
AIF

Mail: Memo from Steve Hayward regarding chainsaw class at Lingan St. Beach
Old Colony Planning Council Agenda
Memo regarding two utility pole installations on Hilda Lane and River St.
Form A for 394 Plymouth St.
Letter to Mutual Bank

Gerry Fitzgerald entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35p.m.

Motion: Ed Lane
Second: Chris Hadorn
AIF

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Clark
Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Signatures: _____

