



City of Westfield, Massachusetts

Municipal Conservation Commission

January 9, 2018
MEETING MINUTES



Conservation Commission members in attendance: David Doe, Chairman, Henry Bannish, Vice Chairman, Jim Phillips, Tom Sharp, Jim Murphy, Jason Bean and Carl Grobe. Also in attendance: Karen Leigh, Conservation Coordinator and Colleen Fegan-Nunez, Administrative Assistant.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Doe calls the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. OPEN PARTICIPATION – Chairman Doe asks if there are any audience members that would like to address anything not on the agenda. There are none at this time.

3. PUBLIC MEETINGS

A. 0 Fowler Road (13R-45)-Richard Conroy
Project: Construction of single family residence.

Applicant requests Continuance to January 23, 2018.

Commissioner Bannish motions to continue until January 23, 2018 and is second by Commissioner Murphy. AIF

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. 141 Springfield Road-WalMart Non-REBT Poperties-DEP File #333-750
Project: Construction of concrete pedestrian ramp.

Applicant already requested continuance to January 23, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

B. 11 Neck Road-Vyacheslav Rafalskiy
Project: Proposed vehicle storage lot in floodplain.
Jeff Smith of Salvini Associates is present representing Mr. Rafalskiy.

Mr. Smith states Mr. Rafalskiy and his brother are looking to store their tractor trailer trucks temporarily between runs. Because of the floodplain the evacuation plan is to move everything to 99 Walnut Street in Agawam. Coordinator Leigh states that there is no DEP file number because they are waiting for a narrative on what work is to be done. Mr. Smith states that there will be no work done, it is already a gravel lot. There is a trailer that will be used as an office. Coordinator Leigh states that a better description of the use would be acceptable; a daily routine.

Commissioner Murphy asks how many trucks maximum will be stored there. Mr. Smith states that up to twenty trucks. Commissioner Murphy then asks if there will be a tractor stored there to assist in evacuation and how many trucks to the brothers own and will there be anything stored outside of the trailers. Mr. Smith states that he will get the answer to these questions. Commissioner Phillips asks where Mr. Rafalskiy will get the twenty four hour evacuation notice from. Mr. Smith states that he doesn't know. Commissioner Murphy believes it comes from the flood control board. Commissioner Bean asks if there are any precautions for any fluid leaks. Chairman Doe asks if there will be any maintenance. Mr. Smith will get the answer. Commissioner Sharp asks if there will be any new fencing. Mr. Smith states that the area is already fenced in with six foot chain link fence. Coordinator Leigh asks about debris removal near the river.

Commissioner Phillips motions to continue until January 23, 2018 and is second by Commissioner Murphy. AIF

5. ENFORCEMENT

A. 74 Old Holyoke Road-John Prenosil.
Clearing in Riverfront Area.

Mr. Brutski states that Westfield Gas and Electric recommended that he cut all of the vines to clean the area up due to downing of trees and pulling the power lines down. This caused some damage to the electronics in the house. So, Mr. Brutski cut the trees and replanted fruit trees. Coordinator Leigh states that she would like to walk the property. Mr. Brutski states that this is fine.

Commissioner Murphy motions to continue until January 23, 2018 and is second by Commissioner Sharp. AIF

B. 420 Union Street-Steve Ensign
Clearing in Riverfront Area.

Mr. Ensign states that in October the Rail Road came through and cleared near the tracks which prompted him to clear his property out because it looked good. One of the larger trees was hanging over and many limbs were falling in to the parking lot. He just went in and cleared the area to avoid any accidents in the coming winter. Mr. Ensign states that his property has been removed from the floodplain. Coordinator Leigh states that he is still within 200 feet of the river. Commissioner Murphy asks how many trees were cut. Mr. Ensign state that it was eight trees and a lot of brush. Commissioner Murphy suggests that Mr. Ensign plant some trees, this area is highly altered already. The Commission suggests that Mr. Ensign plant two three inch trunk trees by the end of growing season 2018. Mr. Ensign asks for guidance in placement and type of tree.

6. DISCUSSION

A. WalMart-salt alternative proposal

Coordinator Leigh reminds the Commission of the proposal presented last meeting. Commissioner Phillips states that after further investigation Magnesium Chloride is the least offensive of the ice melts. Commissioner Grobe states that WalMart agreed to find an alternative. It seems that they are putting Commission off. Chairman Doe asks Coordinator Leigh to contact WalMart again.

B. Commissioner Phillips announced that he would be resigning from the Conservation Commission effective 2-1-18

7. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

A. Regulations and Procedures Q & A
None at this time

B. Minutes of December 12, 2017.

Commissioner Phillips motions to approve the minutes of December 12, 2017 and is second by Commissioner Grobe. AIF

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Commissioner Bannish motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 pm and Commissioner Phillips seconds. AIF

A true record, Attest:
Colleen Fegan-Nunez
Westfield Conservation Administrative Assistant

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