



City of Westfield Municipal Conservation Commission

JUNE 27, 2023 AT 6:30PM
WESTFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

RECEIVED

AUG 11 2023

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Conservation Commission members in attendance: Chairman Doe (DD), Vice Chairman James Murphy (JM), Robert Florek (RF), Ed Finnie (EF), James Prystowski (JP) Also, in attendance: Anna Meassick, Director of Conservation and Christina Ramos, Conservation Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Doe calls the meeting to order. Commissioner DiCarlo and Commissioner Grobe are not in attendance.

2. OPEN PARTICIPATION

- A. Chairman Doe asks if there are any members of the public who would like to address an item not subject to a public hearing. Seeing none, he moves onto item 3, public meetings.

3. PUBLIC MEETINGS (RDAs)

- A. 317 Union Street

Proposal: Installation of electric fence for goats within the floodplain

Chairman Doe reads the legal language.

Anthony Witman, property owner, is present.

Mr. Witman describes there are a lot of invasive species on his property that he would like to remove, but it is too dense. He would like to use goats to have better access for hand removal. He needs to install a temporary fence to contain the goats, which is exempt from the resource areas on site, except for the flood zone which the property falls in.

Chairman Doe inquires into other plants that might be there. Mr. Witman does not have concerns for any native species being damaged in the process as the area is heavy with invasive species. He explains the goats will eat a majority of the plants down to the old growth.

Chairman Doe asks if Mr. Witman is looking to use machinery to remove the bittersweet. Mr. Witman responds with an determination he already has for hand removal of the invasive species.

Vice Chairman Murphy asks if there is Japanese Knotweed on sight. Mr. Whitman answers no, not that he is aware of.

Director Meassick has concerns of the goat fecal matter entering the water and asks if they will be cleaned up after. Mr. Witman agrees to cleaning up after the goats.

Commissioner Finnie asks the purpose for the work. Mr. Witman explains he is looking to keep back the encroachment of the invasive species as it is not appealing and does more harm than good.

Chairman Doe asks if there are any questions or comments from the public. One attendee, Sandy Hillman, asks what the fence looks like, how many goats, and where will they be housed. Mr. Witman explains the fence design, there will be 2 goats, their shelter will be the natural environment.

Chairman Doe asks if there are any additional comments from the public. Seeing none, he entertains a motion to continue to July 11, 2023 to allow for a site visit.

Vice Chairman Murphy motions to continue to July 11, 2023 for a site visit.
Commissioner Florek seconds. JP=yes, EF=yes, JM=yes, RF=yes, DD=yes

The motion passes.

B. Park River Drive

Proposal: Sanitary sewer upgrades within riverfront area

Chairman Doe reads the legal language.

Director Meassick explains no one from R. Levesque Associates has attended to represent the applicant because the work is exempt from the Act and Ordinance. She explains the exemptions. No work will occur outside the already disturbed area.

Chairman Doe asks if there are any comments from the Commission. Seeing none, he asks if there are any comments from the audience. Councilor Mike Burns speaks on behalf of the Homeowner Association and the importance of the work. He explains the way the system is going to be connected at Granville Road.

Chairman Doe asks if there are additional comments from the public. Seeing none, he entertains a motion to close the public meeting.

Vice Chairman Murphy motions to close the public meeting. Commissioner Finnie seconds. JP=yes, EF=yes, JM=yes, RF=yes, DD=yes

Commissioner Florek motions for a negative determination, the project is exempt from review under the Act and Ordinance. Commissioner Finnie seconds. JP=yes, EF=yes, JM=yes, RF=yes, DD=yes

The motion passes.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS (NOIs)

- A. 302 East Main Street and 28 Verona Street- DEP File #333-833
Proposal: Retail and storage building in flood zone

The representative has requested a continuance.

Commissioner Florek motions to continue to July 11, 2023. Commissioner Finnie seconds. JP=yes, EF=yes, JM=yes, RF=yes, DD=yes

The motion passes.

- B. 109 Medeiros Way & 0 Timberswamp Road – DEP File #333-835
Proposal: Construction of a self-storage facility in river front area, bordering wetlands

The representative has requested a continuance.

Commissioner Florek motions to continue to July 11, 2023. Commissioner Finnie seconds. JP=yes, EF=yes, JM=yes, RF=yes, DD=yes

The motion passes.

5. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

- A. Armbrook Assistant Living Facility - DEP File #333-647
Permit: Construction of Facility

Gail Cerisia of Berkshire Wetland Services is present as the representative.

She explains that all items have been completed to the plans. As-builts and a certified letter of completion has been signed off by the engineer on the project.

Vice Chairman Murphy requests clarification on which project this was at the location.

Commissioner Florek motions to issue a Certificate of compliance and release the bond. Commissioner Finnie seconds. JP=yes, EF=yes, JM=yes, RF=yes, DD=yes

The motion passes.

- B. Armbrook Assistant Living Facility - DEP File #333-747
Permit: Reconstruction of Stormwater system

Gail Cerisia of Berkshire Wetland Services is present as the representative.

She explains there was an error in the pavement from DEP File #333-647. It has since been corrected and approved by the project engineer. As-built plans are reviewed.

Commissioner Finnie motions to issue a Certificate of compliance and release the bond.
Commissioner Prystowski seconds. JP-yes, EF-yes, JM-yes, RF-yes, DD-yes

The motion passes.

- C. 0 Rachel Terrace – DEP File #333-791
Permit: Construction of home

Director Meassick explains the house changed ownership and the home was built beyond the limit of work. Restoration has occurred and she would like to do a site visit prior to issuing the certificate of compliance.

Vice Chairman Murphy motions to continue to July 11, 2023. Commissioner Prystowski seconds. JP-yes, EF-yes, JM-yes, RF-yes, DD-yes

The motion passes.

- D. N. Elm Street & Notre Dame St – DEP File #333-719
Permit: Intersection Improvements

Director Meassick explains the project was by the City to remodel the intersection from several years ago. The design works to this day.

Commissioner Finnie motions to issue a certificate of compliance. Vice Chairman Murphy seconds. JP-yes, EF-yes, JM-yes, RF-yes, DD-yes

The motion passes.

- E. Plantation Circle to Jesse Lane – DEP File #333-725
Permit: Pump station and sewer system connection

Director Meassick explains this was also a City project and the sewer connection now exists.

Commissioner Florek motions to issue the certificate of compliance. Commissioner Prystowski seconds. JP-yes, EF-yes, JM-yes, RF-yes, DD-yes

The motion passes.

- F. Westfield River Floodway – DEP File #333-792
Permit: Mowing of floodway

Chairman Doe recommend closure because the mowing is now covered under the Bundled Order of Conditions issued to the City DPW and therefore is no longer needed.

Vice Chairman Murphy motions to issue the certificate of compliance. Commissioner Florek seconds. JP=yes, EF=yes, JM=yes, RF=yes, DD=yes

The motion passes.

6. ENFORCEMENT ORDERS

- A. 65 Butternut Road
Violation: Dumping of fill in wetland

Chairman Doe asks for an update. Director Meassick met with Attorney Shanna Reed to discuss the process of fining under the local by-law. There is no formal process for issuing fines. She issued a letter breaking down the violations and fines and requested a ticket book from the Police Department. The homeowner has not contacted the office.

The Commission discusses methods of delivery. Director Meassick reads the violations.

7. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

- A. Regulations & Procedures Q&A

Director Meassick brings up application fees as discussed at the last meeting. It would have to be an amendment to the Ordinance.

The item remains under review by the Commission.

- B. Extension Request 1120 Southampton Road – DEP File #333-767
Permit: Construction of commercial building

Director Meassick explains they have not started work and request a 3-year extension.

Commissioner Florek motions to issue an extension. Commissioner Finnie seconds. JP=yes, EF=yes, JM=yes, RF=yes, DD=yes

The motion passes.

- C. Approval of Tekoa Narrows application

Director Meassick reads the endorsement letter for the LAND Grant application towards acquiring new conservation property titled Tekoa Narrows.

Vice Chairman Murphy motions to approve the application for the LAND Grant. Commissioner Prystowski seconds. JP=yes, EF=yes, JM=yes, RF=yes, DD=yes

The motion passes.

D. Master Plan Endorsement Letter

Director Meassick reads the endorsement letter for support of the City of Westfield Master Plan.

Commissioner Florek motions to endorse the Master Plan. Commissioner Finnie seconds. JP=yes, EF=yes, JM=yes, RF=yes, DD=yes

The motion passes.

E. Review and approval of April 25, 2023 minutes

The minutes cannot be approved because there is no quorum from that meeting. Commissioner Finnie and Commissioner Prystowski were not part of the board at the time. In order to approve the minutes, at least 4 members who attended the April 25, 2023, meeting must vote.

F. Review of any additional administrative items

- a. Sign permits

The Commission signs permits and discuss additional administrative items. Director Meassick has written a memo to City Council explaining the Commission's decision on 70 Lockhouse road. She reads the letter.

8. MOTION TO ADJORN

Vice Chairman Murphy motions to adjourn at 7:28pm. Commissioner Florek seconds. JP=yes, EF=yes, JM=yes, RF=yes, DD=yes

The motion passes.

A true record, Attest:
Director of Conservation Anna Meassick