



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749  
(978) 562-2948

*Paul Byrne, Chair*

*Joseph Rodrigues*

*Marianne Iarossi*

*David Mercer, Vice Chair*

*Emilie Wilder*

*Brandon Parker*

*Jason Weksner*

### Meeting Minutes April 19, 2018

**Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by chair Paul Byrne**

**Roll Call: Paul Byrne, David Mercer, Joe Rodrigues, Marianne Iarossi, Emilie Wilder, Brandon Parker, Jason Weksner**

**Staff: Pam Helinek (Conservation Agent)**

#### **Public Hearings**

**3 John Robinson Drive, RDA**

**Present: Carol and Lewis Collins**

##### **Documents:**

- Plan: Shed at 3 John Robinson Drive

The applicant proposes to install an 8'x10' storage shed at the side of the house, on existing lawn area, about 18 feet from the edge of Bordering Vegetated Wetland. No earth will be disturbed or trees cut. Concrete blocks will be used for leveling. The floor will be covered with vinyl to protect the ground from oil or gasoline spills. Paul Byrne moved to issue a Negative Determination, second by Joe Rodrigues, vote 7-0-0

#### **Washington Street, RDA**

**Present: Austin Turner, Matthew Ashley (Bohler Engineering)**

##### **Documents:**

- Sewer Connection Exhibit; prepared by Bohler Engineering; dated 1/4/2018

The applicant proposes to construct a sanitary sewer force main in existing sidewalk in Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland to serve the planned GSX Assisted Living Facility. They have worked with DPW to plan the connection to an existing gravity main. Joe Rodrigues noted that the new main will be going over drains and catch basins and the area may be wet. He said they would need to avoid the detention basin. Paul Byrne requested that the main have a double wall for the entire run and asked about erosion controls. Joe Rodrigues said it will require straw bales or wattles and silt fence, double staked, especially rear the outlet and catch basins. Paul Byrne said the double layer of erosion controls should begin up by Tucks Trucks and go all the way down to the detention pond. Austin Turner said that some of the area was covered in the Order of Conditions, 190-0612, and that he would incorporate the requirements

into the Order as well. Brandon Parker asked if the integrity of the double walled pipe could be tested. Austin Turner said he would discuss it with DPW. Resident Gregory Opp asked when the wetlands were flagged and said it looked as though they were flagged in the past for a different project and might no longer be accurate. Paul Byrne said that was true, but that they were assuming that the wetlands came all the way up. Paul Byrne suggested continuing the hearing until new plans showing the erosion controls and the double walled pipe could be submitted and reviewed. Austin Turner requested that the Negative Determination be issued contingent upon the new plans being approved. Paul Byrne moved to issue a Negative Determination with conditions requiring the double-walled pipe and the erosion controls as discussed, contingent upon approving revised plans. Second by Emilie Wilder, vote 7-0-0.

### **MBTA ROW, continued NOI, 190-0616**

**Present: Denise Bartone, Eversource Energy; Katie Kinsella, VHB; a number of abutters Documents:**

- MADEP File No. 190-0616 March 1, 2018 Hearing – Response to Comments; Subsurface Investigation Notice of Intent, Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability Project; Prepared by VHB; dated 3/30/18
- Letter from Katie Kinsella, VHB; Subject: Sudbury-Hudson NOI Site visit; Dated 4/12/18

The Commission attended a site visit on 4/7/2018; a number of abutters also attended. Chair Paul Byrne asked if any abutters had question or comments. Brian O'Neill referred to the VHB responses to comments from the March 1, 2018 hearing. He asked why the project was starting before the EFSB announced its decision. Denise Bartone said the data was needed to complete the engineering design. Brian O'Neill asked if the Commission was satisfied that wetland lines used to determine jurisdiction were correct and up to date. Paul Byrne said that the Commission had hired a peer reviewer who had agreed with the delineation. Brian O'Neill asked to see the documentation from the NHESP about endangered species. Pam Helinek said she would post the letter from NHESP. Paul Byrne moved to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions, second by Joe Rodrigues, vote 6-0-1.

Special Conditions: Count of all trees cut that are greater than 4" must be submitted to the Commission; results of soil tests must be submitted to the Commission; an environmental monitor must be present at all times when machines are operating – in addition to VHB, the Commission requests a 3<sup>rd</sup> party monitor chosen by the Commission and paid for by Eversource; all trees must be cut by a certified arborist.

### **Administrative Business**

#### **Letter of support – Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant**

The state is encouraging all municipalities to become designated MVP Communities, which gives them eligibility for future action grant monies. This requires holding a stakeholder workshop to determine climate change related vulnerabilities and associated resiliencies actions, to produce a report and hold a public listening session. The state is providing grant money to complete the process. Paul Byrne moved to sign a letter of support for the grant application, second by Joe Rodrigues, vote 7-0-0.

**Discussion items**

- A resident backed into the sign at Old North Road Conservation Land, breaking it in half. Sign Logic is determining if it can be repaired.
- Hudson is participating in a discounted rain barrel program – orders must be made online through May 15<sup>th</sup> and rain barrels must be picked up at the DPW building on May 22<sup>nd</sup> between 5:30 and 7:30.
- Rain Garden “Do-it-yourself” workshop at Avidia Bank, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00
- Earth Day cleanup on April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> – pick up bags at Beyond Real Estate on Main Street

**Information Session – Wetlands Protection Bylaw**

A number of residents attended the information session. Discussion mainly focused on confusion about the existing state Wetlands Protection Act and concerns about the phrase “undisturbed natural vegetation”. The Commission decided to introduce an amendment on the floor at Town Meeting removing the long sentence on page 8 before the bulleted setbacks. The sentence was meant as a preamble but is confusing and unnecessary.

**Adjournment**

Joe Rodrigues moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Emilie Schuler, vote 7-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.