



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 June 20, 2019

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

South and Market Streets, Amendment to OOC, 190-0614

Present: Kristina Johnson (Community Development), William Paille (BSC Group)

Documents:

- Hudson South Street Streetscape Improvements, Notice of Intent Plans; prepared by BSC Group; revised 06/20/19; scale 1"=20'
- Electrical Site Plan E-100; prepared by Austin Design Inc; dated 8/18/18

The applicant proposes to extend the limit of road work down South Street Extension to Houghton Street. The road will be milled and repaved and new granite curbs constructed. All current elevations will be maintained. Underground conduits will be installed for the future Medusa Brewery project at 1 Houghton Street, so that the road does not have to be disturbed at a later date. The conduits will remain empty for now. Silt sacks will be installed in all catch basins during construction. Paul Byrne moved to close the hearing and issue an Amended OOC, second by Emilie Wilder, vote 7-0-0. Special conditions: Conservation Agent must inspect catch basins after silt sacks are in place.

22 Shay Road, RDA

Present: Adam Smith

The applicant proposes to replace a deck in Riverfront Area to Fort Meadow Brook. The deck will be constructed in the original footprint and the new footings will be installed by hand digging. Any excavated material will be stored on the existing slab beneath the deck and then backfilled. Emilie Wilder moved to issue a Negative Determination, second by Paul Byrne, vote 7-0-0.

Bigelow Street (Map 61 Parcel 2) ANRAD, 190-0634

Present: Brian Waterman (Waterman Design), Kathy Adams

Documents:

- Resource Area/Existing Conditions Plan, Bigelow Street (aka Bigelow Road); prepared by WDA Design Group; dated 6/5/19; scale 1"=40'

The parcel is on the Hudson-Berlin line and the majority of the land is in Berlin. A narrow 1.1 acre section of the parcel is in Hudson. A deep drainage channel abuts the parcel, with Route 495 on the other side. The applicant has flagged the wetlands in the bottom of the channel, which have a clear boundary due to the steep inclines on either side. Paul Byrne moved to close the hearing and issue an ORAD, second by Joe Rodrigues, vote 7-0-0.

77 Cherry Street, NOI, 190-0635

Present: Tom Clark

Documents:

- Hudson Light and Power Department, Cherry Street Facility; prepared by Geological Services Corporation; date 7/28/98

The applicant proposes to install three 9950-gallon double-wall, above-ground, diesel fuel storage tanks at their facility on the banks of the Assabet River, in flood plain. Work had already begun without a permit, and large piles of soil sit in the floodplain not far from the river. The applicant has since installed two rows of straw wattles, one around the dirt piles and one along the river bank, which have been inspected by the Conservation Agent.

Paul Byrne noted that the filing was incomplete. The resource areas have not been flagged, and resource areas, buffer zones, floodplain, and elevations must be shown on the plan. Flood storage calculations must be submitted, and compensatory flood storage provided if necessary. The Commission also requested details on the tanks themselves to review.

Emilie Wilder asked how the Commission will know what the original elevations were, since there has already been significant disturbance in the area. Tom Clark said that the base elevations have not been altered.

Paul Byrne asked about plans for the dirt piles. Tom Clark said they will be moved to another on-site location, outside the flood plain, graded into the area and planted. Emilie Wilder expressed concern about turtles that could have deposited eggs in the dirt piles. The eggs wouldn't hatch until late August.

Paul Byrne asked why the soil wasn't moved off-site. Tom Clark said the soil was contaminated and the LSP said it could not be moved offsite. The Commission expressed concern about the pile of contaminated soil so close to the river and asked that it be tarped and that the LSP attend their next meeting to answer questions.

Paul Byrne moved to continue the hearing to July 18 at 7:00. Second by Emilie Wilder, vote 7-0-0

Administrative Business

Discussion – Wheeler Road CR

Present: Lloyd Geisinger, David Eastridge

Lloyd Geisinger is the sole Trustee of Wheeler Road Land Trust Corporation which owns the Wheeler Road conservation parcel. The CR for this parcel, which will be held by the Commission, has been approved by EOEEA and is awaiting a final signature. Lloyd Geisinger would like the Commission to accept this parcel as a gift. There was concern about arsenic contamination on the site, but the arsenic is bound to the soil and contained within a capped area. The site has been granted a Brownfields Covenant Not to Sue Agreement, which guarantees that it is considered to be safe in perpetuity. Paul Byrne moved to move to submit an article to the fall Town Meeting warrant, contingent upon agreement by Town Counsel. Second by Joe Rodrigues, vote 7-0-0. Pam Helinek will request Town Counsel to review.

Minutes: Paul Byrne moved to approve the minutes from June 6, 2019. Second by Marianne Iarossi, vote 7-0-0

COC Requests – 2 Martin Circle, 190-112,120,121,122

Paul Byrne moved to issue partial COCs for 2 Martin Circle, which is not in any Resource Area or Buffer Zone. Second by Joe Rodrigues, vote 7-0-0.

Bag Ban Bylaw

Emilie Wilder has done research indicating that charging fees for bags is more effective than a bag ban in getting people to use re-usable bags. Pam Helinek relayed information from Elisa Pearmain (Green Hudson) that towns are not currently able to mandate a bag fee. The Commission agreed that the bylaw should require that paper bags are made from 40% post consumer recycled paper, as would be required by the proposed state law.

Adjournment

Emilie Wilder moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Brandon Parker, vote 7-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.