



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

David Mercer, Acting Chair

Emilie Wilder

Brandon Parker

Jason Weksner

Heidi Graf

Meeting Minutes January 2, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by chair David Mercer

Roll Call: David Mercer, Brandon Parker, Emilie Wilder, Jason Weksner, Heidi Graf, Jimmy Martin (Asst Commissioner), Paul Osborne (Asst Commissioner)

Staff: Pam Helinek (Conservation Agent)

Public Hearings

Rte 62 and Rte 85, Downtown Rotary, NOI 190-06xx

Present: Kristina Johnson, Hudson Community Development; Bill Paille, BSC Group

Documents:

- Hudson Downtown Rotary 75% Design; plotted 12/12/19 and 12/11/10; scale 1"=20'
- Downtown Hudson Rotary Design project, Hudson, Massachusetts, Notice of Intent Application; prepared by BSC Group; dated Dec 2019

Heidi Graf recused herself because she works for BSC Group.

The applicant proposes to replace roads and sidewalks, improve stormwater management and add landscaping in Riverfront Area and Buffer Zone to the Assabet River. Raised landscaping beds will have curb cuts to allow for stormwater flow. Curbs are necessary as a barrier during snow plowing. Silt socks will be installed in catch basins and straw wattles will be installed as erosion control. Pam Helinek said that erosion control is not shown on the plans and will need to be approved by the Commission.

Paul Osborne asked about trees in the islands. Bill Paille said that there will only be low vegetation. Jimmy Martin asked that the final planting plan be approved by the commission, as well as any chemicals used for landscaping. Emilie Wilder asked if salt used by DPW will damage the landscaping. Bill Paille said that they will ensure DPW uses materials that won't harm the plants. Jason Weksner said that if soil is compacted by people walking on it then it won't absorb storm water. Bill Paille said they will situate landscaping islands where people are less likely to walk.

Jimmy Martin asked about stockpiling of materials. There will not be much stockpiling, and wattles will surround any stored materials. Dave Mercer said that debris from removing old pavement should be removed from the site immediately. Bill Paille agreed and said that erosion control will be used to prevent runoff from exposed areas. Dave Mercer said the site would need to be stabilized for the winter.

Brandon Parker asked about maintenance of the storm drain sumps. Bill Paille said the sumps will have hoods but they will require annual maintenance. Brandon Parker said they may require more frequent maintenance and that he would like a sump cleaning schedule as well as a plan for erosion control maintenance and replacement.

Brandon Parker asked about irrigation and maintenance of the landscaping. Kristina Johnson said that hopefully the BID (Business Improvement District) will help out with landscaping maintenance as they have on South Street. Jason Weksner said there are 32 trees in the landscape plan and only two species, neither of which are ideal for urban landscapes. He would like to see more variety in the trees planted.

David Mercer moved to continue the hearing to February 6 at 7:00PM, second by Emilie Wilder, vote 4-0-1 (abstention by Heidi Graf). Outstanding items: final planting plan including more tree variety; final plan showing location of landscape islands; specification of chemicals to be used in landscaping; erosion control plan; erosion control maintenance plan; deep sump maintenance plan. Special conditions: all demolition debris to be removed from the site, any stockpiled materials to be surrounded by straw wattles, exposed soils to be surrounded by straw wattles, site to be stabilized for winter

Administrative Business

Minutes: Dave Mercer moved to approve the minutes from December 19, 2019. Second by Brandon Parker, vote 5-0-0

Discussion – Eversource site visit

The site visit at the MBTA ROW will be on Saturday morning, January 11, 2020 at 8AM. Rain date Sunday January 12 at 8AM. We will meet in the ARRT parking lot on Wilkins Street.

Historic District Commission vacancy – Paul Osborne has volunteered to represent the Conservation Commission on the Historic District Commission and will be appointed by the BOS Monday night.

COC Request – Simrah Gardens, 307 Central Street, 190-0398

A full COC was issued on 3/20/2008 but was never recorded and has since been lost. Emilie Wilder moved to reissue the COC, second by Heidi Graf, vote 5-0-0

Adjournment

David Mercer moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Brandon Parker, vote 5-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.