

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018

Meeting held at Tyringham Town Hall located at 116 Main Rd.

Commission Member Attendees: Matthew Puntin, Mark Curtin, Barbara Palmer, Amanda Hamilton, and April Curtin (Clerk)

Conservation Commission Members Absent: Tracy Remelius

Public Attendees: Benjamin Naylor (Berkshire Engineering), Terrence Smith (Fishing & Boating Access), Mary Philpott, John Philpott, James Consolati, Karen Consolati, Joseph Janis, Elisabeth Goodman (Cain Hibbard)

Matthew Puntin opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

1) Public Hearing - NOI Office of Fishing and Boating Access: Terrence Smith began by explaining the project located at the Goose Pond Boat ramp, which is a Public Access Right-of-Way. His office has received many calls of concern in relation to the boat ramp over the past few years, so funds were appropriated to complete the work this year. He explained how the project will be completed (as noted on the NOI) and said the project will take about three weeks total but that the boat ramp access itself will be restricted for a week, week and a half at the most. When the boat ramp does need to be closed, a notice will be published on the Office of Fishing and Boating Access website, as well as the Town will post a notice. Terrence Smith would like to begin the project late April, early May and stated it needs to be completed by June 30, 2018. The hearing was opened to public comment. Mrs. Philpott wanted to know why and how far to the left the boat ramp will be shifted. He explained that currently the ramp has shift to the right over time and they will be correcting that. Mr. Philpott wanted to know if any trees on his property bordering the ramp would be disturbed, which Terrence assured him they would not. Mr. Philpott also asked about the gullies, which Terrence assured him they will be dug out and cleaned out. Another concern of Mr. Philpott was the Jetty to the left, questioning if that will be disturbed, which Terrence stated it will stay in place. He also was wondering if there will be a police presence as this falls in a time when boats are typically being launched for the season. Terrence stated they will not be covering the fee for police coverage but the Town can if they choose. Joe Janis wanted to know who would maintain the basins, particularly the ones in the corner, which Matthew Puntin responded the town has a Stormwater Plan and will be responsible for any basin in the Public Access Right-of-Way. He also wanted to know if they were going to increase parking which Terrence stated they would not be. They are hopeful that with time, parking will improve as the parking is strictly intended for the launch and retrieval of boats. Once all public comments and concerns were addressed, Matthew Puntin made a motion to approve the Order of Conditions with the special condition that the Stormwater Operations and Maintenance Plan for Goose Pond (02/27/2018) be enforced. The board voted unanimously to issue the order of conditions.

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2) Public Hearing – NOI 35 Cooper Creek – Benjamin Naylor from Berkshire Engineering came to explain the proposed project on behalf of Carol Schaeffer. He submitted a new Site Plan for the NOI, so the Commission as well as attendees took a moment to review and follow up with questions. Mark Curtin and Matthew Puntin questioned the size of the new dock as the scaled picture on the Site Plan was noted with one dimension but the description has another dimension noted. He clarified it should be the dimension noted in the description. The team discussed the possibility of moving the septic from the proposed plan to reinstalling it where the current septic tank is as an option. Elizabeth Goodman from Cain Hibbard submitted a letter (attached) on behalf of her clients (noted in attached) wanting to ensure that the proposed structure is exactly the same footprint of the existing structure. The plan is the same exact footprint, however it is slightly higher due to adding a crawl space under the structure as currently there is not one. Elizabeth expressed concern with this as she felt being it was taller went against the existing footprint. She also expressed concern with the proposed replacement of the existing dock stating she wants to ensure it meets Dock Regulations so that it minimizes underwater disturbance. She asked that the Conservation Commission take into account the height of the proposed structure and the inconsistencies of the plan prior to making a determination. Matthew Puntin clarified we cannot make a decision based on the height of the structure as that is out of the Conservation Commissions jurisdiction. He did make a motion however to continue this until the next Conservation Commission meeting, asking that Berkshire Engineering submit an updated signed and stamped Site Plan NOI for this project to match the proposed work. The board voted unanimously in favor of continuing till April 12, 2018.

3) Minutes - The Board read and approved the meeting minutes from 1/25/2018.

4) Mail - Mail has been read and reviewed including a Forrest Cutting Plan for Webster Road and a bill from New England Newspapers, Inc.

5) Any other business brought before the board: Nothing was brought before the board.

Matthew Puntin closed the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Attached (can be found at Selectmen's Office): Letter submitted by Cain Hibbard on the behalf of Ezra Goodman, Rhonna Goodman, Herbert Hochberg, and Susan Litowitz.