

Department of Planning and Community Development

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Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan

Braintree Conservation Commission

Patrick Flynn, Chair
Donald Murphy, Vice-Chair
Diane Francis
Matthew Hobin
Daniel J. McMorrow, Jr.
Gail Poliner-Feldman
Alan Weinberg

Staff Kelly Phelan

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2014

Present: Patrick Flynn, Chair; Gail Feldman, Diane Francis, Gus Murphy, Alan Weinberg & Kelly Phelan, Staff

Absent: Matthew Hobin, Daniel McMorrow

Public Hearings

Request for Determination of Applicability (1515) Washington St. Athletic Fields/Thayer Academy

APPROVED

Glenn Howard, landscape architect with CDM was present with Maggie Lofstedt from CDM. Mr. Howard explained that the athletic fields were constructed in 2004 and the synthetic turf needs replacement. He said there would be no work beyond the fence line. The turf and underlying drainage mat will be replaced. They also propose adding an 8 inch drain line under one of the fields (field 2) which experiences ponding. The pipe will be installed parallel to an existing 8 inch pipe which then connects to a 15 inch pipe in field 3 and to another 15 inch pipe in field 4. From field 4 it discharges to a detention basin. He said they worked with the original design engineer to demonstrate there will be an increase in runoff from the additional pipe.

Mr. Flynn asked about the issue with the detention basin easement noted in the staff report. [The land upon which the detention basin is located was later conveyed to the Town but Thayer is responsible for its maintenance.] Mr. Howard said they are working with the original engineering firm to determine if there was an easement drafted. Mr. Weinberg said the easement would have to be recorded at the Registry of Deeds and he suggested the hearing not be closed until the easement is resolved.

Ms. Feldman asked who looked at the additional pipe. Mr. Howard said the engineer who designed the fields ran the drainage calculations. Staff noted that the Town Engineer reviewed it as well.

Mr. Weinberg asked about the storage capacity detention basin. Mr. Howard did not know. Staff said the capacity is documented in the original file. She noted they were shallow, wide basins with an overflow for the outlet.

Mr. Flynn asked for public comment. There was none.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. Murphy, to continue the hearing to the March 6 meeting to allow for resolution of the easement issue. Vote: 5-0.

Notice of Intent

8-625 Commercial St./Fore River Railroad Corporation (MWRA)

Matthew Horan from Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) was present with David Gonsalves from STV Inc. the project design firm.

Mr. Horan explained that there is an existing bridge along the rail line which they would like to replace with a culvert for safety and maintenance concerns. He said the bridge was built around 1903 to allow cattle to pass between fields on the either of the railroad tracks.

Mr. Gonsalves said that drainage from John Paul Circle is discharged near the bridge. A 54 inch culvert with wing walls would be installed in place of the bridge to convey the drainage. The culvert will have dissipation pads to prevent scour. The work will impact 285 square feet of bordering vegetated wetlands and includes 340 square feet of wetland replication.

Mr. Flynn asked about site access and staging. Mr. Gonsalves said it would all be off of the rail line using equipment that has rail wheels and a bobcat lowered from the tracks to the work area.

Mr. Weinberg asked about mitigating measures. Mr. Horan said they would use haybales and silt fence and replicate the impacted wetland area.

Ms. Feldman asked about the potential impacts to the John Paul Circle subdivision. Mr. Gonsalves said the subdivision is on a hill above the area and the pipe is sized for a one-hundred year storm.

Mr. Flynn asked for public comment. There was none.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. Murphy to continue the hearing to March 6th for draft conditions. Vote: 5-0.

Two abutters then asked if they could comment. Joann Farrington asked when work would be down and how long it would take. Mr. Horan said it would begin in late spring or early summer and would take about 4 weeks. Ali Sharifi from 34 Rogers Circle asked what benefit the Town would get from replacing the bridge with a culvert. Mr. Horan said it was being done to remove a maintenance and safety hazard from the rail road line. Mr. Sharifi also said the train generates noise pollution and asked if anything would be done about that. Mr. Horan that when they make upgrades along the track that helps reduce vibrations but generally there is not much they can do about the noise.

Notice of Intent

8-624 Adams St./Fore River Railroad Corporation (MWRA)

Matthew Horan from Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) was present with David Gonsalves from STV Inc. the project design firm.

Mr. Horan said they propose to replace the existing grade crossing as well as make improvements to the roadway and replace water and sewer lines by request from the Town.

Mr. Gonsalves said the work will take place within the buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetland associated with the Monatiquot River. They are replacing the track and re-grading and repaving the road to try to eliminate a bump near the tracks. The crossing will be fully gated. They also propose drainage improvements including replacement of a pipe under the tracks and a new piped outlet to control an erosion problem as well as installation of deep sump catch basins.

Ms. Feldman asked where the drainage runoff goes now. Mr. Gonsalves said toward the river. The work they do won't change the direction but it will prevent erosion and provide some water quality treatment from the deep sump catch basins.

Mr. Weinberg thanked Mr. Horan and Mr. Gonsalves for helping the Town with the utility improvements.

Mr. Flynn asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. Murphy, to continue the hearing to the March 6th meeting for draft conditions.

Other Business

Request to Amend Order of Conditions

8-529 29-39 Hayward St./29-39 Hayward LLP

Hugh McGourty and Jen Hart were present. Mr. McGourty said they constructed 8 out of 11 residential townhouse units and then the economy slowed. They would like to change the setback of the last three units from the wetland to 29 feet from 40 feet. He said originally they were going to use an old building on the site as garages but they feel it is better to incorporate the garages into the units and this eats into the setbacks.

Mr. Weinberg suggested that abutters be notified.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. Murphy, to continue the matter to the March 6th meeting for abutter notification. Vote: 5-0.

**Request for Certificate of Compliance
8-94 95 Shaw St./Development Concepts**

Staff said the Order of Conditions for this project was issued in 1979 and involved relocating the building off of the property line. The project was done but the applicant never requested a Certificate of Compliance until they went to sell the property and the title attorney discovered the outstanding Order. Staff reviewed the conditions, the file, visited the site and recommended issuing the Certificate of Compliance.

Motion by Mr. Murphy, second by Diane Francis, to issue the Certificate of Compliance for 8-94 (95 Shaw St.). Vote: 5-0.

Eaton's Pond Area Discussion

Staff said she had sent notice of the February 11th meeting at Ross School to approximately 150 abutters around the Eaton's Pond area. She said she had only received one call so far and that was from someone who wouldn't be able to attend the meeting but wanted to register opposition to human visitation to the area.

The Commission discussed logistics and set up for the meeting.

Monatiquot River Kayak Launch Discussion

Staff requested quotes for the survey and design work for the kayak launch at the Union St. rotary. Only one firm of four responded. The Commission reviewed and discussed the scope of work contained within the quote (survey, conceptual design, quantification of resource area impacts, final design and construction cost estimate).

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. Murphy, to award the contract to GZA Inc. for the amount not to exceed \$7800. Vote: 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Ms. Francis, to accept the minutes of January 9th. Vote: 5-0.

Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Ms. Feldman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. Vote: 5-0.