

Conservation Commission –February 24, 2018

Members present were Mr. Freddy Friedman, Ms. Rona Easton, Mr. David Hosford, Dr. John Schreiber & Mr. David Herrick.

Meeting was called to order at 9:14 AM.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to nominate Dr. John Schreiber as vice chair. Dr. John Schreiber abstained from voting.

Meeting minutes of January 27th 2017 were accepted as prepared.

Gilmore Hearing: Mr. Craig Okerstrom-Lang, Okerstrom Land LTD, Landscape Architects was not present, he sent an email requesting to continue this hearing till the next month meeting.

Heritage Homes Inc Hearing: Present for this hearing was representative, Mr. Robert Goyette, of Heritage Homes Inc and Mr. Robert Levesque, R. Levesque Associates Inc. Applicant submitted a NOI for the purpose of construct a single family home with associated site improvements, including a driveway, septic system, and site grading. Property location is 100 Hillside Rd. Mr. Goyette mentioned that the Board of Health has already approved this project. The commission reviewed the comments from DEP which is to keep close eye on the erosion and sediment controls and the rear of the house due to the steep slope and proximity of the wetlands. The commission completed a site visit prior to the meeting and would like to have another site visit prior to the construction, and also suggest that construction is delayed till the frost is out of the ground. The commission would also like to know the number of trees being cut. After discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted to close this hearing. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve this application with the following conditions: sediment & erosion control double barrier shall be used, new construction not to commence until approximately May 1st, and tree removal to be minimized.

SunBug Solar Hearing: Present for this hearing was representative, Mr. Ed Sepanski. Applicant submitted a RDA of installation of small-scale residential ground mount (20 solar panels, 6.7 kW), array anchored using 4 ground screws; no excavation or concrete work required for array footings. Tree removal necessary for installation of solar array, all stumps left in place – no extraction or grinding of stumps. The commission completed a site visit prior to the meeting. The commission requested replanting native plants. Mr. Sepanski mentioned that a Landscaper is coming to the project site. It was noted that the area is in the flood plain and Panels are just beyond the 200 ft buffer zone. After a brief discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted to close this hearing. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve this application as a negative determination #3 with the condition being: for a plan from the applicant for planting of native vegetation planted in flood plain. Note that commission is waiting for the mediation plan.

Ms. Emily Stockman appeared before the commission regarding the enforcement for Walker On 492 NM Monterey (North Rd). Ms. Stockman presented a restoration plan. Ms. Stockman mentioned that a field assessment was completed in the fall. Area is in two sections as mentioned in prior meetings. Ms. Stockman stated that the first step is to remove phragmites – then back grade, seconded cutting to make sure phragmites are removed, also looking at a spring planting. Ms. Stockman motioned that a total of 860 plants will be planted. The commission reviewed the restoration plan with Ms. Stockman, and is very appreciative of the Walker's efforts on this project. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to issue a friendly enforcement order in March.

Ms. Stockman is offering her services to the commission to review the wetland regulations.

The commission reviewed the mail:

- Housatonic Valley Association would like to attend the commission's April meeting.
- Goddard Consulting LLC - offering their services.
- Forest cutting plan – NM Hill LLC – NM Hill Rd – approved.
- O'Connor Land & Timber LLC – NM Hill Rd – approved.
- O'Connor & Chamberlin – 191 NM Hill Rd – approved.

Mr. Freddy Friedman recused and left the meeting, for the review and discussion of the special permit for Oasis Campus LLC. Dr. John Schreiber mentioned that there are two issues to be reminded of open meeting laws – and that the role of the conservation commission is environmental impact with particular focus on the wetlands protection act. Special permits process requires that commission and other boards be notify 10 days when a special permit is filed and we responded to the proposal being placed into our mailboxes. Thus the cons. Comm. reviewed the proposed special permit proposal and had a number of questions about potential environmental impact including, amount of runoff, amount of water to be used for both the commercial plant and for employees, disposition of waste water containing fertilizer or pesticides in close proximity to wetlands and the river, and that the magnitude of the project (100,000 SF) may require an environmental notification form to be filed as per the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act to DEP and other regulatory bodies. The commission received comments from Citizen of NM, Lake Buel Restoration Preservation and from the Callahan's who is one of the abutters of the special permit area. After consulting with DEP, the commission reviewed the special permit as requested by the current bylaws and has a number of questions regarding the impact of this project. The commission drafted and completed a letter to the Board of Selectmen with their concerns and also included the wetland regulations.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 17th at 10:00 AM.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn at 10:30AM

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chretien

Secretary