

CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
JUNE 7, 1989



MEMBERS PRESENT: Carol Place, Andrew Sheehan, Ken Dow, John Chalmers, Bob Young

CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATOR: Tom Tidman

RECORDING SECRETARY: Andrea MacKenzie

VISITORS: Joanne Lazdonski, Jennie Johnson, Ron Colbert, Eileen Sullivan, Molly Dietrich, John MacLeod, Graham W. Knowland, Richard Blake, Sue Bennett, Nancy & Pete Whitcomb, Jacob Janericco, Class representatives from Douglas and Gates Schools

7:30 Ms. Place called the meeting to order.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS - There were no concerns stated.

BUSINESS

PRELIMINARY - REVIEW DOUGLAS & GATES SCHOOL

Faculty and student representatives from the Gates and Douglas Schools presented preliminary plans of a proposed boardwalk system that will connect existing paths between the two schools. This proposed boardwalk system will provide quick and safe access will between the two schools, and also provide teaching stations.

The Conservation Commission stated that a Notice of Intent filing will be required.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

Mr. Graham Knowland, 29 Esterbrook Road, stated to the Commission that he is a direct abutter to Vincent DiDuca of 145 Great Road, who is in the process of filing with the Commission for proposed agricultural work on his property. The area in question is within a aquifer recharge area, and there is a stream that drains to the ponding area that Mr. DiDuca is proposing to fill. Mr. Knowland also expressed concern that if this proposed project is approved, that the land will be used for reasons other than agricultural purposes.

The Commission told Mr. Knowland that he will be notified by certified mail when Mr. DiDuca files with the Commission, and urged Mr. Knowland to attend the public hearing.

8:00 ACTON WATER DISTRICT - ROUTE 111

John MacLeod brought the Commission up to date on the project at the Route 111 Water District property, and submitted a letter to the Commission which explained the reasons for removing the pine trees, and the stock piled materials within 100' of a wetland. {This letter is attached herein}.

Mr. Dow expressed concern regarding the lack of communication from the Water District, for the reason that it is hard enough to keep citizens and builders to comply with the Wetlands Protection Act.

8:34      NOTICE OF INTENT - 170 Willow Street · 75-200    Sant Bani of Boston

Ms. Place opened the meeting under MGL Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act, and the Town of Acton Bylaws for the construction of a meeting hall and the widening of the driveway.

Harry Donahue, of Acton Survey and Engineering, stated the property is on the south side of Willow Street, there is an existing stream and culvert crossing Willow Street that passes through the property. There is an existing gravel driveway for the existing house on 172 Willow Street, this will serve as a common drive. The driveway presently imposes on the neighboring property, and they propose to realign the drive onto their property, and widen the driveway from 12' to 16'. Due to the widening and realignment of the driveway they will need to realign the stream bed adjacent to the driveway, which will involve 210 s.f. of fill, this work will be done by hand only. With the exception of the grade changed involved with the realignment of the driveway and brook, all existing grades along the driveway will remain. They also propose to place a guardrail between the driveway and the proposed re-aligned brook. Both the proposed sewage disposal area and secondary area will be outside of the 100' wetland buffer zone. There is a proposed 20 car gravel parking area also. The haybales indicated on the plans will be the limit of work.

Two citizens stated their opposition to any work that would impact the flow of the stream and associated wetlands. The Commission assured them that all proposals must maintain existing flow of streams and wetlands. An applicant cannot decrease or increase stream flows regardless of neighbors preferences.

9:13      Hearing no further comments or questions, Ms. Place closed the hearing.

9:14      NOTICE OF INTENT - Lot 81 Stow Street    75-201

Ms. Place opened the hearing under MGL Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act, and the Town of Acton Bylaws for the construction of a common drive and two homes within 100' of a wetland.

Mr. Donohoe reported that there was a communication breakdown between his staff and town staff, therefore there was notification to abutters, and asked for a continuation of this hearing for June 21, 1989.

Mr. Dow moved to continue the hearing for Lot 81 Stow Street, 75-201, until June 21, 1989. Mr. Sheehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission and Mr. Donohoe reviewed the plans.

9:26

MINUTES

The minutes for April 19 and May 2 were approved by the Commission, and will be signed at the next meeting. Minutes for May 17 were distributed to Commissioners.

9:30

NOTICE OF INTENT - Hayward & Arlington Street 75-202

Ms. Place opened the hearing under MGL Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act, and the Town of Acton Bylaws for the removal of sediment from a ponding area on Fort Pond Brook, at the intersection of Hayward Road and Arlington Street.

Harry Donahue, of Acton Survey & Engineering presented plans for the noted project. The applicant proposes to dredge the 80' wide area with a dragline, all material will be hauled off site immediately after excavation, so there will be no stock piling of said materials on site. Approximately 1400 cubic yards of material will be removed. The drag line will dredge from the Arlington Street side of the ponding area. In expectation of disturbing the bank of the pond, the applicant will regrade and reseed the disturbed area, bringing the bank back to its existing grade. Mr. Donahue stated that the pond will be approximately three feet deep when the job is finished. The existing silt accumulation 'island' will be removed during excavation. After excavation, they propose to block the water flow until sediment from the activity settles, and the water level returns to normal. Ultimately, there will be no change in flow characteristics.

Several abutters stated that they are in favor of the project.

9:55

Hearing no further comments or questions, Ms. Place closed the hearing.

DECISION - WATER DISTRICT PROPERTY - ROUTE 111

Mr. Dow moved to require the Water District to file a Request for Determination for the work done on the noted property. Mr. Sheehan seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 aye, 2 nay.

DECISION - NOTICE OF INTENT - SANT BANI OF BOSTON - 170 WILLOW STREET 75-200

Mr. Young moved to issue an Order of Conditions to Sant Bani of Boston, Inc. for the project at 170 Willow Street with the condition that there will not be no alteration of wetlands. Mr. Chalmers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DECISION - NOTICE OF INTENT ARLINGTON & HAYWARD-FORT POND BROOK 75-202

Mr. Dow moved to issue an Order of Conditions for the removal of sediment from the ponding area on Fort Pond Brook at the intersection of Hayward Road and Arlington Street. Mr. Chalmers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

145 GREAT ROAD - Vincent DiDuca

The Commission agreed to require Mr. DiDuca to file a Notice of Intent for the proposal brought before the Commission on May 17, 1989.

10:30 Meeting Adjourned.

  
Carol M. Place  
Chairperson

*FOR CAROL M. PLACE*

## Water Supply District of Acton

MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE

ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01720

June 6, 1989

Conservation Commission  
472 Main Street  
Acton, Mass. 01720

Att: Carol Place - Chairperson

Dear Carol,

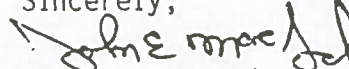
The Whitcomb Well, located in West Acton off Mass. Avenue, near the Boxboro Town line, pumps approximately 450,000 gallons of water per day into our system. In the early Forty's many pine trees were planted around the well. One of the many theory's then was, by planting these trees it would induce recharge to this well and aquifer. Now in the present age many Geologists believe that clearing land around wells and slopping properly will give a better recharge to the well and aquifer. The main reason for our removing the trees was that this well has a very high color to it and the water is very acidic. We receive many asthetic complaints from our customers. The Water Districts' Geologists felt that the pine needles were causing these problems and we did not remove the stumps because of peat in the area which could cause more problems to this well due to decaying vegetation.

The Water District hopes to put an Article on the Annual Meeting or Special Meeting in the near future, to remove fill clay or sand from other District land to cover the stumps and slope properly. Also to maintain a Fire Road which the Fire Department uses to gain access to the woods in the back of the District property. In this same location the District stores materials to make repairs to its system. We also store some gravel for water main breaks, so we are able to fill in holes where we have to dig. The District also has problems with people dumping on our property at several locations, mainly at this location. Yes, one of my operators did spread this gravel and hot-top out with our back-hoe and some was put in the wetlands. We are in the process of removing this material and hauling it to an approved location. I know the District will not store any more gravel or fill near the wetlands.

Again we will install a fence and gate-way near our garage to prevent intruders from dumping in this area, also at other District sites.

I will contact Tom Tidman soon to inspect this area to make sure that we are in compliance with all conservation laws and regulations. We will also ask him to inspect other District properties to make sure we are complying to everything.

Sincerely,

  
John E. MacLeod,  
District Manager  
Acton Water District

cc: Mr. Tom Tidman, Conservation Administrator  
Mr. Donald Johnson, Town Manager  
Mr. David Appt, Engineering Department  
X Mr. Dean Charter, Director of Municipal Properties  
Mr. Gary Rhodes, Building Commissioner  
Board of Water Commissioners