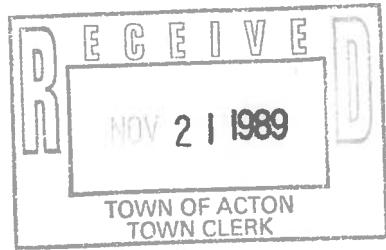


CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR
SEPTEMBER 20, 1989



MEMBERS PRESENT: Carol Place, Andrew Sheehan, Pam Resor, Bob Young, Ann Shubert, John Chalmers 8:30

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Sandra Mika

CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATOR: Tom Tidman

RECORDING SECRETARY: Andrea MacKenzie

VISITORS: Quint Brathwait, Doug Carnahan, Mary Giorgio, David Hill, Tim Smith, Eric Duhamel, Pete Shanahan, Paul Nyquist

7:35 Ms. Place called the meeting to order.

EAGLE SCOUT PRESENTATION - Eric Duhamel

Eric Duhamel presented pictures to the Commission illustrating his completed Eagle Scout Project. Eric Duhamel constructed a brick walkway in the historic foundation at the Arboretum. A total of 120 man hours were expended.

7:45 SIDEWALK MASTER PLAN - Planning Board

Planning Board members and staff discussed with the Conservation Commission their goals for Acton sidewalks. They expressed the need for safer pedestrian travel in town, and the Conservation Commission agreed. The Planning Board stated that they would require construction/funding of sidewalks unless there is some compelling reason not to (i.e. a sidewalk creating major fill in flood plain or wetlands). It was noted that there have been problems in the past with applicants not indicating proposed sidewalks on plans. The Conservation Commission stated that they need sidewalks and any related filling shown on plans, because ultimately, they are a part of the projects being presented. The Planning Board stated that there is potential to require sidewalks to be shown on proposed plans. Both boards agreed that there is a need for group participation in site visits, and preliminary hearings to open up channels of communication.

8:25 REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION - Haley Lane D-89-17

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 common drive for two house lots off of River Street.

Paul Nyquist, engineer, stated that he is proposing a common drive for two house lots. The private drive will be 16' wide with three foot wide gravel shoulders, for a total of a 22' wide common drive. Mr. Nyquist reported that there is an isolated wet pocket along River Street and the proposed common drive, which does accept drainage from a small portion of the property. Mr. Nyquist stated that he has seen this pocket marked as a wetland in the past, but cannot locate this information at this time, as it is not marked on Acton's current wetland/flood plain maps. This isolated pocket will have activity within it for other drainage related work, but would not have to be filled.

The Conservation Commission reported to Mr. Nyquist, that this could be considered a vernal pool, and could therefore still be protected under the Act.

Mr. Nyquist requested the Commission to continue this hearing, and conduct a site inspection, stating that this 'pocket' couldn't be considered a substantial wetland.

The Conservation Commission and Mr. Nyquist agreed to continue this hearing, pending a site visit and review.

Mr. Sheehan moved to continue this hearing until October 18, 1989. Mr. Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8:45

REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION - 29 Kinsley Road - D-89-18

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 railroad tie retention wall.

Mr. Karl Jackson, resident of 29 Kinsley Road, reported that he had an erosion problem with the heavy rains in the beginning of this September. A small amount of erosion of approximately two cubic yards was washed within 40' of a vegetated wetland, on a neighbors property. Mr. Jackson reported that he cleaned it up right away, and this had not been a problem in the past. In order to prevent this from happening again, Mr. Jackson proposes to construct a small railroad tie retention wall in this particular area.

Mr. Sheehan moved to find the proposed project as presented to be within the Commission's jurisdiction, and will not have a negative impact on the wetlands. Mr. Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8:52

DISCUSSION

Ms. Resor asked staff why the Acton Conservation Commission is no longer a member of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions.

Staff stated that the budget cuts have prevented the town from subscribing to many services previously used.

MEADOWVIEW DEVELOPMENT

The Administrator reported that the proposed Meadowview Development should be filed with the Town within the next few months.

9:14 Ms. Carol Place withdrew from the hearing regarding Douglas/Gates School, and the rest of this evening's meeting.

9:15 NOTICE OF INTENT - Douglas/Gates School - 75-208/85-276

Mr. Sheehan opened the hearing under MGL Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act, and the Town of Acton Bylaws for the construction of two boardwalks and an education platform in existing wetlands that are to be used for educational purposes.

Ms. Carol Place introduced plans for two boardwalks to be constructed entirely within wetlands and flood plain. The purpose is to provide teaching areas and access between the two schools on an existing path.

Pete Shanahan, engineer, stated that the proposed boardwalks are a similar design to the Audubon Society boardwalks. The boardwalks will be built in three phases. Phase I will be the construction of a boardwalk at grade over an existing pathway between the Douglas/Gates Schools. This portion of boardwalk will have concrete forms to anchor the new boardwalk to the existing path. Phase II will consist of an elevated boardwalk passing through an open wet meadow, constructed on four feet deep sono tubes, connecting to Phase I. Phase II will connect to a proposed elevated platform that will be Phase III. Phase III, proposed in the future, will consist of constructing an elevated platform and boardwalk crossing the wetlands back to the playground behind the Douglas School. Mr. Shanahan stated this will be a low profile boardwalk system. His calculations assume the total elevated structure as fill, despite the fact that it is elevated and is not technically fill (except the posts). His calculations indicate that approximately 1450 - 1600 cubic feet will be considered as fill.

9:53 Hearing no comments or questions, Mr. Sheehan closed the hearing.

9:54 REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION - Great Road - Rusty Scupper D-89-19

Mr. Sheehan opened the meeting under MGL Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act, and the Town of Acton Bylaws for the construction of three additional parking spaces on existing impervious surfaces at the Rusty Scupper Restaurant.

The Administrator reported that the a representative from the Rusty Scupper could not make the meeting, and explained the request filed.

The Administrator presented plans for an existing concrete pad, which they propose to remove, and replace with a 35' x 27' asphalt pad for three additional parking spaces. The back of the proposed parking area will be screened with four hemlocks.

The Commission questioned the distance of the dumpster from the edge of wetlands, and the necessity of the additional parking spaces. Due to the questions raised by the Commission and due the applicant not being present, the Commission continued the meeting until October 4, 1989. Staff will notify the applicant of such continuation.

DECISION - NOTICE OF INTENT - Douglas/Gates School 75-208/85-276

Mr. Young moved to issue an Order of Conditions to the Douglas/Gates School for the construction of two boardwalks within existing wetlands, with the additional condition that a 1:1 wetland replication plan must be submitted, and approved by the Conservation Commission prior to construction.

Mr. Chalmers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Administrator reminded commissioners that there is an Arboretum Work Day - September 30 from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00

10:30 Meeting Adjourned.

Carol M. Place
Carol M. Place
Chairperson