

BEDFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
February 25, 2015
Selectmen's Meeting Room
Town Hall, Bedford, MA

PRESENT: John Willson, Chair; John Britton, Clerk; Joseph Guardino; Lori Eggert;
Allan Wirth; Andreas Uthoff
Elizabeth Bagdonas, Conservation Administrator
Stephanie Ide, Conservation Department Assistant

ABSENT: Steven Hagan, Vice-Chair

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Willson read the Public Record Statement as approved by Town Counsel on 9/10/12.

Trails Committee: Annual Report

Mr. Michael Barbehenn, Chair of the Trails Committee, Ms. Adrienne St. John and Ms. Kristin Dowdy of the Department of Public Works along with numerous members and participants of the Trails Committee were present before the Commission to discuss the Annual Trails Report. Ms. Dowdy stated that a new Notice of Intent for bog bridge work will be submitted to the Commission for their review this spring. The previous Order of Conditions for bog bridge work expired in April, 2014 and a Certificate of Compliance has been requested. Approximately 675 linear feet of bog bridges were installed over a seven year period. The Commission was informed of both completed and proposed trail maintenance, connections, easements, kiosks, sign posts and trail walks. The Trails Committee has been working on completing an official Town of Bedford Trail Guide and it should be finalized soon. The Trails Committee has also requested funding from the Community Preservation Committee for the construction of pedestrian bridges at Washington Street going over Elm Brook and at Lantern Lane going across Spring Brook. The 2014 Bedford Trails Committee Annual Report will be available to review on the Town of Bedford Website.

Request for Determination of Applicability: 7 Hill Road

Mr. Scott Smyers of Oxbow Associates and Mr. P. Michael Cresta were present before the Commission to discuss the approval of a wetland delineation at 7 Hill Road. Mr. Cresta is planning to construct a garage addition that is outside of the buffer to wetland. Installation of erosion control materials are proposed and stockpiled materials will be kept in the driveway. Ms. Bagdonas stated that a site visit occurred on January 20, 2015 prior to the snowfall.

A motion was made by Mr. Britton and seconded by Mr. Uthoff to issue a negative Determination for reason three and a positive Determination for reason five. The motion passed 6-0-0, after which the Determination was signed.

Notice of Intent: 13 Bonnievale Drive

A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the public notice. The motion passed 6-0-0. Mr. Richard Kirby of LEC Environmental, Mr. Al Gala, Engineer for the project and Mr. Christopher Cronin, owner of 13 Bonnievale Drive, were before the Commission to discuss the proposed demolition of the existing single family house and construction of a new single family house within Bordering Land Subject to Flooding and the 100-foot buffer zones to Bordering Land Subject to Flooding and Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

Ms. Lori Eggert stated that she had spoken to Town Counsel regarding her involvement in the public hearing due to her being an abutter of 13 Bonnievale Drive. Town Counsel informed her that she may participate in the public hearing because she is not a direct abutter. Ms. Eggert signed a letter of disclosure and has filed it with the Town Clerk.

The existing structure and the proposed structure are within the 100-year floodplain and the 10-year floodplain. Mr. Kirby first addressed this issue by stating that the proposed project is an improvement to the lot. The existing impervious surface calculations are 4,345 square feet with the proposed being 3,590 square feet. The proposed structure will remain outside of the 50-foot buffer to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) and the 25-foot buffer to BVW will be restored to a natural state guided by a planting plan. Although the proposed structure will completely be located within floodplain it has been moved further forward with the proposed structure to be significantly smaller with flood vents located around the foundation.

A variance was proposed but after some discussion it was determined that a variance would not be the appropriate way to move forward with the project. Ms. Bagdonas recommended that the applicant continue to move forward without requesting a variance but rather find a way to meet the state standards regarding compensatory flood storage. The applicant may want to seek guidance from DEP regarding the use of flood vents because she believes that flood vents are not allowed to be used as compensatory flood storage.

A motion was made by Mr. Britton and seconded by Mr. Wirth to continue the public hearing to the meeting of March 11, 2015 with the applicants consent. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Order of Conditions: 236 Carlisle Road

The Commission reviewed the draft Order of Conditions as prepared by Ms. Bagdonas. A discussion took place about the special conditions. A motion was made by Mr. Uthoff and seconded by Mr. Britton to approve the Order of Conditions as discussed and amended. The motion passed 6-0-0, after which it was signed.

Bills Payable:

A motion was made by Ms. Eggert and seconded by Mr. Wirth to approve payment of \$115.00 to Mr. Joseph Guardino from the Wetlands Protection Fund for the reimbursement of the cost of MACC Courses Units 4 and 5. The motion passed 6-0-0, after which the bills payable form was signed.

8 Harvard Drive:

A motion was made by Mr. Uthoff and seconded by Mr. Britton to approve a minor edit to the Determination that was issued for 8 Harvard Drive. The motion passed 6-0-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Britton and seconded by Mr. Uthoff to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 7-0-0 adjourning the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

The minutes were prepared by Stephanie Ide.

The minutes were approved at the meeting of March 11, 2015.