

BEDFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
April 23, 2014
Selectmen's Meeting Room
Town Hall, Bedford, MA

PRESENT: Steven Hagan, Vice-Chair; John Britton; Tim Gray; Lori Eggert; Allan Wirth, Clerk
Elizabeth Bagdonas, Conservation Administrator; Stephanie Ide,
Conservation Department Assistant

ABSENT: John Willson, Chair; Andreas Uthoff

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

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

Continuation of Request for Determination of Applicability: 398 Davis Road

Ms. Pamela Brown of Brown and Brown, PC was present before the Commission to request a continuation of the Request for Determination of Applicability for 398 Davis Road to the meeting of May 14, 2014 and to request a site visit by the Commission the week of May 5th.

A motion was made by Mr. Uthoff and seconded by Mr. Britton to continue the hearing to the meeting of May 14, 2014. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Request for Determination of Applicability: 26 Gould Road

Mr. Johannes Chiu was present before the Commission to discuss the proposed removal of an existing porch and the construction of an addition with balcony within the 100-foot buffer zones to Bordering Vegetated Wetland and Bordering Land Subject to Flooding. Ms. Chiu stated that she would also like to request the Commission's approval for the removal of a tree in case it needs to be removed during the construction of the addition. Ms. Bagdonas did a site visit at the property with Ms. Chiu and prepared a revised map based on the site visit. Based on the revised map, Ms. Chiu submitted revised impervious surface calculations to the Commission. Ms. Bagdonas suggested that the Commission include a condition stating that the homeowner has the right to a professional delineation.

A motion was made by Mr. Gray and seconded by Ms. Eggert to issue a negative Determination for reason three and a positive Determination for reason five with the following conditions:

1. The existing shed may not be replaced in its present location.
2. Landscaping debris may not be disposed of within Wetlands or the 25-foot buffer.
3. A formal Wetland delineation may be submitted by the owner at any time.

The motion passed 5-0-0. The Determination was then signed.

Request for Determination of Applicability: Trails Committee

Ms. Adrienne St. John and Ms. Kristin Dowdy of the Town of Bedford Department of Public Works and Mr. Michael Barbehenn, Chair of the Town of Bedford Trails Committee were present before the Commission to discuss the proposed installation of two entrance sign posts off of Dudley Road, one entrance sign post off of Old Billerica Road, three entrance sign posts and one intersection sign post within the Town Campus and the installation of six stairs adjacent to the playing fields at the High School on an existing trail within the 100-foot buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetland. The proposed project locations are Dudley Road/Huckins Farm, 469 Old Billerica Road and 9 Mudge Way. Ms. Dowdy stated that the Trails Committee will be doing the work.

A motion was made by Mr. Gray and seconded by Ms. Eggert to issue a negative Determination for reason three and a positive Determination for reason five. The motion passed 5-0-0. The Determination was then signed.

Request for Determination of Applicability: Various Town Right-of-Ways; Paving

Ms. Adrienne St. John and Ms. Kristin Dowdy of the Town of Bedford Department of Public Works were both present before the Commission to discuss the proposed reclaiming and repaving of various roadways within the 100-foot buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetland. The proposed project is located within existing roadways at Hume Road, Old Burlington Road, portions of Hartwell Road and the Minuteman Bikeway. Ms. St. John explained that some trees will need to be removed near the bike path. The safety zone for trees near the bike path is approximately 3 feet from the path. Ms. Bagdonas asked about the floodplain on the bike path. Ms. Dowdy said that she will check the elevations but she believes that portion of the bike path is outside of the floodplain.

A motion was made by Mr. Gray and seconded by Mr. Hagan to issue a negative Determination for reason two and three and a positive Determination for reason five with the following conditions:

1. The Department of Public Works will check the elevations of the bike path.
2. Ms. Bagdonas will consult with DEP regarding the work within the Riverfront Area.

The motion passed 5-0-0, after which the Determination was signed.

Public Hearing – Notice of Intent: 200 Hanscom Drive – Massport VMP

Mr. Randall Christensen of Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. and Mr. Tom Ennis of Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) were present before the Commission to discuss the proposed removal of vegetation that currently penetrates, or threatens to penetrate the existing airspace surfaces at L.G. Hanscom Field and adjacent areas. Massport has submitted the update of an existing, airport-wide Vegetation Management

Plan (VMP), entitled “L.G. Hanscom Field 2014-2018 Vegetation Management Plan Update” for the on-going control and management of vegetative obstructions to navigable airspace at L.G. Hanscom Field and adjacent areas. On-going control and management is to be continued in all four of the Hanscom-area towns (Bedford, Concord, Lexington and Lincoln). In Bedford, the project will take place within Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, Land Under Water Bodies and Waterways, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, Bank, the Riverfront Area and the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project locations are within the Runway 23 and 29 areas, to include the Shawsheen River and Hartwell Brook areas, and the Jordan Conservation Area.

Mr. Christensen presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Commission. Mr. Ennis stated that in addition to the new cutting Massport is also requesting to be able to continue with maintenance of the previously cut areas and that Massport would like to start the cutting as soon as possible. Ms. Bagdonas stated that it would be better to cut in frozen conditions as they did before. The Commission discussed meeting at the Jordan Conservation Area at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 for a site walk with Mr. Christensen.

A motion was made by Mr. Gray and seconded by Mr. Wirth to continue the public hearing to the meetings of May 14, 2014 and May 28, 2014. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Hartwell Forest Campfires:

Ms. Bagdonas stated that Mr. Nathan Banfield would like to host an event within Hartwell Town Forest that will require a campfire and is seeking the Commission’s approval. A motion was made by Mr. Britton and seconded by Mr. Gray to approve the request to have a camp fire in Hartwell Forest. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Declaration of Restrictions: 285 Great Road

A motion was made by Mr. Gray and seconded by Mr. Wirth to accept the Declaration of Restrictions for 285 Great Road. The motion passed 5-0-0, after which the Declaration of Restrictions was signed.

Certificate of Compliance: 201 Burlington Road

Ms. Bagdonas stated that she believes the Commission can issue the Certificate of Compliance for the remediation/soil removal project. A motion was made by Mr. Britton and seconded by Mr. Gray to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 201 Burlington Road. The motion passed 5-0-0, after which the Certificate of Compliance was signed.

*A motion was made by Mr. Gray and seconded by Mr. Britton to adjourn the meeting.
The motion passed 5-0-0 adjourning the meeting.*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

The minutes were prepared by Stephanie Ide.

The minutes were approved at the meeting of May 28, 2014.