

BEDFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
January 12, 2022
Zoom Remote Hearing
Bedford, MA

Present: Allan Wirth, Chair; Steve Hagan, Vice-Chair; Frank Richichi; Deb Edinger;
Lori Eggert; Stacey Katz
Jeff Summers, Conservation Administrator
Stephanie Ide, Conservation Administrative Assistant

Mr. Wirth opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Public Hearing – Regulations Amendment: Stormwater Regulations – DPW

Ms. Emily Scerbo of Tighe & Bond and Ms. Kristin Dowdy and Mr. Mike Sprague of the Department of Public Works were present before the Commission to discuss a proposed Amendment to the Regulations Pursuant to the Bedford Wetlands Protection Bylaw for the proposed clarification of activities subject to the Town of Bedford General Bylaws Article 55, Stormwater Management. Proposed changes to the Regulations will help differentiate which projects require a Stormwater Permit under the Town's Stormwater Bylaw. Ms. Scerbo presented a PowerPoint presentation.

A motion was made by Mr. Hagan and seconded by Ms. Katz to adopt the proposed regulation. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Request for Determination of Applicability: 13 Beverly Road – Siwen Chen

Mr. Siwen Chen was present before the Commission to discuss the removal of three trees within the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland. Two of the trees are white pine and one is a maple and are leaning towards the house or yard. A Massachusetts Certified Arborist has examined the trees and determined that they are at risk of falling primarily due to unstable and soft soils. Several other trees in the area have already uprooted.

A motion was made by Mr. Hagan and seconded by Ms. Katz to issue a positive Determination for reason 2B and a negative Determination for reason three. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Public Hearing – Notice of Intent: 210 Springs Road, Middlesex Community College

Ms. Meera Cousens and Mr. James Hanley of Civil Design Consultants were present before the Commission on behalf of Middlesex Community College to discuss the proposed full depth pavement reclamation of an existing overflow parking lot and upgrading of the current drainage system within the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

The current edge of pavement is approximately five feet from Bordering Vegetated Wetland. There is another wetland area in the southwest corner of the parking lot. The wetlands on site and parking lot are separated by the Narrow Gauge Rail Trail.

The Commission had several comments for the applicant to address including the removal of all pavement from the 25-foot buffer zone, the construction of landscaped islands, the development of a snow storage plan and a dedicated entrance to the Narrow Gauge Rail Trail. Several comments were made about stormwater on site and an Operations & Maintenance plan should be provided to ensure the proper maintenance of the site. Mr. Richard Reed of 37 Hayden Lane presented the Commission with his concerns about the project.

A motion was made by Mr. Hagan and seconded to continue the public hearing to the meeting of February 9, 2022 with the applicant's permission. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Huckins Farm Discussion:

Ms. Barbara Tate, Chairperson of the Huckins Farm Board of Trustees, was present before the Commission to discuss Huckins Farm plans to begin composting horse manure in 2022 on site. The process is by utilizing "windrows" which are long rows of manure left to the elements and turned periodically to encourage decomposition. The selected location is in an open area outside of wetland buffer zones, however there is an Open Space Restriction on the land in this location.

The Open Space Restriction states that activities associated with agriculture and agricultural activities are permitted on the land. Town Counsel has reviewed the Restriction and has stated that the farm is permitted to compost manure without the Commissions formal review or vote. The Commission thanked Ms. Tate for her presentation and for the information.

Wetland Delineation Policy:

Mr. Summers will have Town Counsel review the draft policy and this matter will be voted on at the meeting of February 9, 2022.

A motion was made by Ms. Eggert and seconded by Ms. Edinger to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Minutes prepared by Stephanie Ide.

Minutes approved at the meeting of March 16, 2022.