

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MEETING OF JULY 27, 2010**

PRESENT: Art Christian, Chairman
Ray Wilcox
Bob Roberts

ALTERNATES: Andy Krar

CONSULTANT: Keith Morris

CALL MEETING TO ORDER-7:00 P.M.

Chairman Art Christian called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Consultant Keith Morris read the agenda. Chairman Christian stated that Andy Krar will be a voting member in place of Glenn Neilson. At this time only Chairman Christian, Commissioner Wilcox, and alternate Andy Krar were present. Commissioner Bob Roberts arrived at the meeting at 7:35 P.M., resulting in four commissioners and therefore a quorum.

Commissioner Krar made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, to move the public hearing to first on the agenda. The motion was made and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING (7:30 P.M.)

1. Permit #1552 – Schechinger – Wetland Map Amendment – Mapleton Ave (Roesberg property). Assessor’s Map 51H, Block 42, Lot 23. This property is located at 785 Mapleton Avenue, the old Roesberg farm.

Chairman Art Christian addressed the audience. He informed them that this hearing is for a wetland boundary change only, and had nothing to do with development of the site. He asked that any questions only address the wetland boundary change. Mr. Christian also stated that if the applicant comes back with a plan for development of the parcel, chances are that a public hearing will be required and the abutters would again be notified.

Consultant Keith Morris read the legal notice and updated the Commission. The submittal has been on file at the Town Clerk’s office. State Soil Scientist Dave Askew has reviewed the wetland boundary and has issued a report. One small additional wetland area has been delineated and added to the plan.

Architect Robert Schechinger addressed the commission and introduced Professional Soil Scientist Ed Pawlak. Mr. Pawlak explained the wetland delineation process and went over the details of the property. He had several site inspections with State Soil Scientist David Askew who asked that an additional wetland area be added to the plan in the northeast corner. Mr. Pawlak went over the wetlands on the entire site.

Chairman Christina then poled the Commission for questions. There were none.

Mr. Christian then opened the meeting up to the public:

Mark Howland, 27 Farmstead Lane - – Mr. Howland asked how the wetland map amendment process works and if the commission agreed with the delineation. Consultant Keith Morris explained the difference in the town line and the delineated boundary. He explained that the town boundary is approximate and is based on a soils map delineated years ago. Anyone planning on developing a parcel of land must have the land delineated in the field by a Professional Soil Scientist. If there is a discrepancy in the town line and the delineated boundary the Commission, by law, must hold a public hearing. The boundary is then reviewed by the State Soil Scientist. If the Professional Soil Scientist and State Soil Scientist agree on the boundary, the Commission generally has to approve the wetland map amendment. Mr. Morris stated in this case the delineated boundary has resulted in much more wetlands on site then the town wetland map depicts.

Sam Scozzari, 30 Farmstead Lane – Mr. Scozzari asked Mr. Pawlak to orientate the public with the map. Mr. Pawlak the explained the location of the property to the public. Mr. Scozzari asked if it was in the best interest of the town to approve the boundary. Consultant Keith Morris again explained that the Commission does not really have a choice if the State Soil Scientist reviews the boundary.

Nathan, 25 Farmstead Lane – Asked about areas that were wetlands and now are not. Mr. Palouk again explained that the town map is an approximated map done years ago by soil scientists who may have mapped hundreds of acres a day. He stated the delineated boundary is a much more accurate delineation of the wetland boundary. Mr. Palouk then explained the soils on site. The property owner then stated that he has numerous zoning concerns.

Richard Rodzen, 831 Mapleton Ave – Mr Rodzen farms the property to the north and has farmed it for years and will continue to farm it. He wants the maximum agricultural buffer allowed. Chairman Christian explained that that is a Planning and Zoning issue. Mr. Rodzen also stated he has worked on the Roesberg property when he was a kid and that it is a very wet piece of property.

Chairman Christian asked if there were any additional comments from the public and the Commission. Hearing none he declared the hearing closed.

Mr. Christian then asked for a motion. Commissioner Krar made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, to approve the application of Robert Schechinger for a wetland boundary change at 785 Mapleton Avenue. Mr. Krar referenced the report by State Soil Scientist David Askew who reviewed the delineation. The motion was made and carried unanimously.

PLAN ACCEPTANCE:

1. Permit #1553 –Bazyk – Single Family Home – North Stone Street. Assessor’s Map 13, Block 12, Lot 29. This property is located on the west side of North Stone Street, the nearest intersection being Oak Street.

Consultant Morris stated that this application is for acceptance. The application is complete and the filing fee has been submitted. The proposal involves construction of a single family home, driveway, and septic system. Almost the entire driveway is within the 50’ upland review area. The house is located just outside the upland review area. North Central has approved the septic system which is located approximately 150’ from the wetland boundary. The driveway and septic have been moved as per previous conversations with the engineer. The recommendation is to accept the application and put it on the August 24, 2010 meeting for decision.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Wilcox made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Krar, to accept the application of William Bazyk and to put on the August 24, 2010 meeting agenda for decision. The motion was made and carried unanimously.

2. Permit #1554 (#1476) – Drabkin – Single Family Home – 1358 Spruce Street. Assessor’s Map 20, Block 22, Lot 44. This property is located on the north side of Spruce Street, the nearest intersection being Hill Street.

Mr. Morris explained that this application was previously approved as permit # 1476 submitted by Kirk MacNaughton. This permit expired in August, 2009. The new owners are asking for approval of the same plan. The application is complete and the filing fee has been submitted. The recommendation is to accept the application and put it on the August 24, 2010 meeting for decision.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Wilcox made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Krar, to accept the application of Mr. Drabkin and to put on the August 24, 2010 meeting agenda for decision. The motion was made and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSULTANT'S REPORT

Consultant Keith Morris discussed the following topics:

Suffield Hardware – Mr. Morris presented a plan for Suffield Hardware for several small additions to their existing building on Mountain Road. There are no wetlands on site and the plan depicts erosion and sedimentation controls. After a brief discussion the Commission stated that this plan could be reviewed in office by Consultant Morris.

Suffield Garden Club – Mr. Morris stated the Suffield Garden Club would like to clean up and do some plantings in the small wetland area in front of the Suffield Ambulance building on Bridge Street. He suggested that they come in informally with a planting plan so it can be reviewed and approved by the Commission. After a brief discussion, the Commission agreed.

Permit #1515, Suffield Street Bridge Replacement – Consultant Morris read a letter submitted by Town Engineer Gerry Turbet requesting an extension of Permit # 1515. The project is going out to bid but construction will not begin until April 2011. The current permit expires in December 2010. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Krar made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, to extend Permit # 1515 for an additional 40 months. The motion was made and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 2, 2010

Mr. Krar made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Wilcox seconded the motion which was made and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wilcox made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and was made and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Tom Heffernan