

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Acushnet
Conservation Commission
122 Main Street, Acushnet MA 02743
Tel: 508.998.0202 Fax: 508.998.0203

Robert Rocha, Chairman
Ted Cioper, Vice-Chair
Marc Brodeur
Everett Philla
Heidi Pelletier
Evelyn Bouley

Merilee Kelly, Conservation Agent
Christine Lagasse, Senior Clerk

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MINUTES OF October 10, 2017 CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Present: Robert Rocha
Ted Cioper
Everett Philla
Marc Brodeur
Evelyn Bouley

Absent:
Heidi Pelletier

Merilee Kelly, Agent
Christine Lagasse, Senior Clerk

I. Meeting called to Order at 6:00 P.M.

II. Minutes for approval:

September 26, 2017 – No vote taken, only 2 Commission members present from that meeting.

III. Meeting Mail: (none)

IV. Appointments: (none)

V. Old Business:

There is still an opening on the Commission for a new member; anyone interested should send a letter of interest to either the Selectmen or Conservation Agent Merilee Kelly.

~~Discussion with Allen Decker~~ (Buzzards Bay Coalition) of a conservation restriction on vacant land off the west side of South Main Street. (Con't from 9/26/17)
Vote may be taken.

Allen Decker said he would be happy to answer any additional questions the commission had on the proposed conservation restriction. He explained the conservation restriction would enable appropriate public access on the properties for passive recreation. It is part of the Buzzards Bay Coalitions effort to make the shore line of the Acushnet River as available as can be to the residents of Acushnet and the general public.

Mr. Decker answered a question from the previous meeting regarding remediation of the properties associated with the New Bedford inner harbor clean-up site. The question the commission had asked was "What is the lowering of the parts per million that the EPA was doing". Mr. Decker stated the information was not available to him. Mr. Rocha said at the earlier stages it was fifty (50). Mr. Decker said he hoped it would be lower than that.

Mr. Decker is seeking a vote to hold the conservation restriction over the Acushnet River Reserve (ARR) on the acreage and to sign the signature page. He also stated it was important for the commission to know the State has not officially signed off on the final document. Mr. Decker will keep Agent Kelly and the commission informed on any significant changes.

A motion was made by Ted Cioper to sign the Conservation Restriction for the vacant land off the west side of South Main Street. The motion was seconded by Everett Philla. Motion passes 5-0.

VI. New Business:

NOI – Koska / Park Dr/Deep Brook Dr (SE001-XXXX) – A Notice of Intent was filed by John Koska for property located at Park Drive & Deep Brook Drive, Map 17 Lot(s) 66-84 & Map 18 Lot(s) 12R-U, 18, 18F-G. The applicant proposes to construct two (2) subdivision roadways for the development of a fifteen (15) lot single family residential subdivision within the 100 foot buffer zone to a bordering vegetated wetland. The applicant is represented by G.A.F. Engineering. Revised plan name “Deep Brook Estates a Definitive Subdivision Plan off Park Drive Acushnet, Massachusetts”. Plan dated 9/12/17.

Bob Rogers of G.A.F. Engineering reviewed the plan with the commission saying it is a fifteen (15) lot sub-division, single family residential homes, an extension of Park Drive, and the construction of Deep Brook Drive. He stated the roadways are in historically approved locations. He also said the last time this project was presented to the Conservation Commission as a sub-division was back in 2007. Last fall an ANRAD was submitted with the re-approval of the delineation of the wetlands line. The Acushnet Conservation Commission and the DEP in 2000 agreed that Deep Brook was intermittent. Mr. Rogers said in August or September 2017 he went out to verify the stream was intermittent. He also stated that he has had three (3) or four (4) public hearings with the planning board, and their reviewer Field Engineering, has gone through the drainage and the sub-division and made one (1) set of revisions. That is what was filed with the NOI.

Mr. Rocha asked if those revisions were with the dry basins. Mr. Rogers said yes, it was the biggest single change on the plan. He said the Planning Board sub-division rules and regulations called for wet basins with a two (2) foot sump. He said there were several meetings and discussion at the public Planning Board hearings. It was agreed at the last Planning Board public hearing the preference was for dry basins. That was based on input from the Board of Health. The Planning Board did vote to let the Conservation Commission direct the dry basin design. Mr. Rogers said he assumed no storage below the outlet structures so he did not need to do much in terms of the calculations. Mr. Rogers did submit with the NOI a full set of revised storm water management calculations.

Mr. Rogers reviewed the plans he had submitted with the NOI filing with the Commission. He pointed out the highlighted colors on the plan and explained what they stood for. Mr. Rogers indicated the project consists of the two (2) roadways and three (3) stormwater detention basins. The project has a drainage system, municipal water, but no sewer so each lot will have a septic system. The NOI only covers the roadway construction and the detention basin construction. Mr. Rogers pointed out, at the intersection of Park Drive and Deep Brook Drive, is an existing twelve (12) inch culvert that was permitted in 1993. Both that culvert and the Deep Brook forty-eight (48) inch culvert were permitted in 1993. Mr. Rogers stated he wanted to put in headwalls; he would like to replace the twelve (12) inch culvert with an eighteen (18) inch pipe and put a headwall on each side. That would result in approximately eight hundred ten (810) square feet of wetland fill. He proposed twelve hundred (1,200) square feet of replication. The existing forty-eight (48) inch pipe he proposed to build a headwall on both ends. There will be about five hundred (500) square feet of fill and eleven hundred (1,100) square feet of associated replication with this pipe. Mr. Rogers indicated where three (3) dry detention basins are located. Mr. Rogers mentioned one of the things the Planning Board asked for is to come up with a de-watering protocol.

Agent Kelly asked Mr. Rogers to explain what a drainage easement is. Mr. Rogers said each individual lot will be owned by the individual lot owner; the drainage easement is a twenty (20) foot wide minimum way required when you have a drainage pipe running through someone's property. This way if the town needs to access the underground pipe they are allowed to go on the property if it needs to be cleaned or fixed.

Agent Kelly questioned Mr. Rogers about the headwalls and why they were needed. He explained the headwall and endwalls support the road and protect the ends of the pipe; they will improve pipe capacity and efficiency while reducing erosion around pipe installations. Mr. Rogers stated the development will have new ones. Agent Kelly asked if Mr. Rogers knew if the existing pipes have any breaks. Mr. Rogers said there was no way of telling, unless you could see if there was a lot of water flowing underneath the pipe. Agent Kelly mentioned if during construction the pipe caved in from trucks driving over it, that would be a good time to replace it. Mr. Rogers stated if that were to happen during construction they would replace it then.

Agent Kelly stated the lots have ton of wetlands and asked Mr. Rogers how he was planning to demarcate them. Mr. Rogers said last October/November every single wetland flag was hung and they were all there. He also said anyone who was interested in purchasing a lot will see the wetland delineation that it is on record. He mentioned that he used the delineation that was done in 2000. Agent Kelly asked who will be building on the lots, was it going to be Mr. Koska? Mr. Rogers said he had no idea. Evelyn Bouley asked Mr. Rogers if he knew who would be doing the building, as she would just like to know. Mr. Rogers stated that who would be doing the construction of the homes is irrelevant.

Agent Kelly asked if the catch basins will add water to Deep Brook or will they infiltrate completely. Mr. Rogers said no, each of the homes will be required to have their own roof drain that connects to infiltration chambers. He said it is required in order to reduce the amount of run off and to be in compliance with the regulations. Mr. Rogers said the roadways and the new deep sump catch basins will be piped to three (3) dry detention basins. The special outlet structures will be notched; that will hold back and reduce the amount of run off into Deep Brook. He also stated based on the change from wet basins to the dry detention basins is a little bit of a volume increase to the wetlands system.

Mr. Rocha clarified with Mr. Rogers that all of the roof drains will go into infiltration chambers and then to the basin. Mr. Rogers said the perk test done per the request of the Board of Health for the lots, was no surprise the water table proved to be relatively high. Mr. Rogers said basically these homes are going to be raised and no more than two (2) feet into the ground. He also mentioned the garages will be drive-under with walk outs in the back and the septic system will be in the front. There will also be filling needed for the homes. All the homes will require roof run offs, with a minimum of one cultec charging unit with stone around it per five hundred (500) square feet of roof area. Mr. Rogers said that requirement needs to be managed between the Building Department, Board of Health, Conservation Commission and Planning Board in order to meet the regulations. Mr. Rogers says he is using nine (9) inches of run off over a twenty-four (24) hour period for all the calculations. He explained to the commission the working of the catch basins and roof run off and where the water will be directed.

There was discussion on who would own the remaining land after the sub-division is built. Agent Kelly asked if there was a planting plan for the replication areas. Mr. Rogers stated that there is not, but he could put notes on the plan if the commission would like.

Mr. Rocha said, on lot 13 looking at the detention basin #3, part of the detention basin is taking up part of lot #13 and going into another lot. It is tucked in between lot 13 and 14. Mr. Rogers said that is still part of lot 14. Mr. Rocha questioned if there is forty thousand (40,000) contiguous square feet at lot #13 and lot #11. Mr. Rogers answered yes.

Mr. Rocha asked Mr. Rogers to explain an onsite de-watering basin (a product known in the industry as "Dirtbag"). Mr. Rocha asked if it was to be there just during the building of the roadways or when house lots are built. Mr. Rogers stated there it is to filter sediment-laden water prior to the water being discharged off-site.

Marc Brodeur referenced page nine (9) of the plan and was questioning changing out the existing culverts from a twelve (12) inch pipe to an eighteen (18) inch pipe between lots one (1) and eleven (11). Mr. Brodeur asked Mr. Rogers if it would be possible to change it to a box culvert. Mr. Rogers said it is possible but prefers not to be required to do it that way. Mr. Brodeur said it is the commission's recommendation if pipes are being replaced to put in box culvert. Mr. Brodeur stated it is the commission's request to stop using pipes and instead use open box culverts as they are better for high flows, and better for wildlife..

Mr. Rocha explained no votes can be taken as the filing does not have a DEP number assigned yet. A motion to continue until next meeting was made by Ted Cioper and was seconded by Marc Brodeur. Motion passes 4-0 with 1 abstaining.

Agent Updates:

MACC Fall Conference coming up for any commission members who would like to attend.

Agent Kelly updated the commission on the ongoing projects going on in town.

Everett Philla spoke to the commission regarding several bills in front of the State House and Senate for pollinators; there are two (2) House and two (2) Senate bills. The bills are being endorsed by the Mass. Farm Bureau. There is one (1) House bill and one (1) Senate bill they are opposed to. Mr. Philla recommends the Acushnet Conservation Commission endorse the two (2) bills the Farm Bureau endorses with a letter to Representative Koczera. Mr. Philla will forward the information to Agent Kelly.

VII. Future Business:

- The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be on Tuesday, October 24, 2017

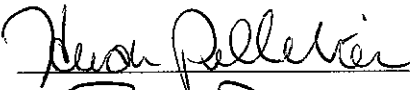
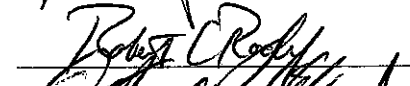
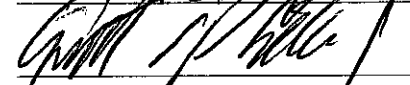
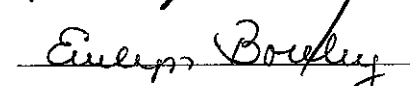
VIII. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 P.M.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ted Cioper. The motion was seconded by Everett Philla.
Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Lagasse, Senior Clerk
Acushnet Conservation Commission

Minutes Approved:

Date: 10-24-17