



SUDBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION Meeting Minutes of Monday, January 24, 2022

Present: David Henkels, Chair; Ken Holtz, Vice Chair; Bruce Porter, Jeremy Cook, Mark Sevier, Richard Morse (7:03 PM), Kasey Rogers (6:50 PM); Luke Faust, Associate Member; and Lori Capone, Conservation Coordinator

Chair Henkels called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

Wetland Applications:

Notice of Intent: 141 Boston Post Road: Herb Chambers of Sudbury, DEP File #301-1361:

Chair Henkels opened the Notice of Intent hearing for the conversion of the existing Bosse Sport site to Herb Chambers Mercedes Dealership including building renovations and expansion, parking expansion with associated stormwater management, utilities and landscaping within the 100-foot Buffer Zone, continued from December 13, 2021.

The Chair stated the Applicant has requested a continuation to February 28 without discussion. L. Capone briefly updated the Commission on the status of the application. On motion by K. Holtz to continue the hearing to February 28, 2022, seconded by J. Cook, the hearing was continued via unanimous roll call vote.

Notice of Intent: 27 Goodman's Hill Road, DEP File #301-136#:

Chair Henkels opened the Notice of Intent hearing for the after-the-fact installation of a gas line within the 100-foot Buffer Zone. The Chair recognized Melissa Coady of Tighe and Bond, representative for Boston Gas, for her presentation.

Ms. Coady stated there had been no coordination with the Commission prior to the installation of a two-inch gas line at the project site. She stated the procedure was unintentional, and thanked Coordinator Capone for visiting the site to assess what would be required to move forward. She understood there would not be action taken tonight as a DEP number has not yet been issued. She illustrated where the gas lines had been installed between the driveway and the wetlands. She stated the gas line went over the existing culvert, and did not disturb either the wetland or the culvert. She shared photos of the area of disturbance area and stated the Coordinator had recently visited the site, noting that leaf litter that was to be put in place to stabilize disturbed soils, had not been completed.

Coordinator Capone reported that only a portion of disturbed soils had been covered with leaf litter when she had visited the site. She recommended a planting plan be developed for disturbed areas with grass over the pipe, and shrub closer to the wetland. There was discussion about the plant types to be used. Coordinator Capone encouraged the Commission to evaluate the Alternative Analysis. There had been a meeting between the homeowner and Boston Gas relative as to where the Easement would be. She said while the work was in the buffer zone, she saw no negative impact to the wetland area, but in the future, any work should be outside the resource area and/or the Commission should be notified in order to provide input when in jurisdiction, prior to development of the Easement location. M. Sevier asked if this was a common driveway, to which Ms. Coady stated that it was, and did not know if future homeowners would request service as well.

After some discussion, the Commission requested a planting plan be developed for the February 7th meeting. Ms. Coady stated they would work on accomplishing this.

With no further discussion or public input, on motion by K. Holtz, seconded by M. Sevier, the hearing was continued to February 7, 2022 via unanimous roll call vote.

Other Business:

Eversource Transmission Line – DCR Mass Central Rail Trail, DEP 301-1287: Review and Approval of the Invasive Species Management Plan.

K. Rogers recused herself from the Commission for this matter as she is an abutter to the project.

The Chair introduced the discussion and recognized Marc Bergeron of Epsilon and Scott Fisher of SWCA, for their presentation. Mr. Bergeron stated the portion of the Order of Conditions being referenced at this meeting was the plan for work within the local Bylaw Adjacent Upland Resource Area. They would be removing and controlling invasives within the limit of work in addition to roughly three acres outside the limit of work, as committed to by the Applicant, Eversource, as mitigation for the project. He stated in cooperation with the Conservation Coordinator, Scott Fisher and his team had mapped out the invasives in the entire MBTA ROW. They had worked with the Coordinator to ensure the best possible plan was presented for the Commissions consideration.

Scott Fisher introduced himself and presented the invasive species plan. He stated all invasive species had been evaluated in totality that were associated with the right-of-way. He confirmed the mapping with Coordinator Capone, walking the entire right-of-way to evaluate each area. The invasive management plan is the result of the mapping and evaluating the corridor for opportunities for invasive management outside the limit of work, as well as within the project area. He proposed manual removal as herbicide use is prohibited. He highlighted the flexibility of the plan in order to offer the best possible invasive management plan.

Coordinator Capone stated she believed the methodology was sound in development of the plan. She added there would be 3.5 acres that exceeds the Commissions requirements. She stated the area being managed totals 6 acres, for five years, doing additional removal when needed. She was confident the plan would more than meet the expectations of the Commission.

The Chair asked for Commission comments. There was discussion about the herbicide use and Siting Board requirements which prohibited any use of herbicides in the corridor. There was some ability by DCR to use herbicides in portions of the trail. There was further discussion about choice of locations for invasive management.

Mr. Bergeron updated the Commission about start times for construction, beginning in Hudson. He said he would have more information in the very near future.

Coordinator Capone recommended the Commission, if there were no other concerns, vote on whether or not to approve the plan, as presented. On motion to accept the plan as presented by J. Cook, seconded by R. Morse, the vote was unanimous via roll call vote.

Sudbury Historical Preservation Plan:

The Chair recognized Peter Benton of Heritage Strategies for his presentation. Mr. Benton is working with the Historic Commission to develop a Historic Preservation Plan for the Town, which would include examining the historic aspects of conservation land within the larger landscape context. He shared the status of the four phases of the plan, background, outreach, which is where they are presently, recommendations, and the final plan. He said he has met with the Coordinator and wanted to collaborate with the Commission on shared historic resources and to learn more about how the landscape shaped the development of Sudbury and how the Conservation and Historical Commission could work together to preserve important cultural landscapes, such as agricultural landscapes and mill properties. He shared maps of Sudbury showing agricultural aspects of the Town. Sudbury has evolved from the agrarian community to what is now considered a suburban woodland or ‘wooded landscape’, with dynamic, complex plant communities. He requested assistance from the Commission in identifying natural landscapes that preserve cultural resources, i.e. stone walls, quarry sites, meadowlands.

The Commission asked questions and discussed outcomes of the Plan. Mr. Benton asked to work with the Coordinator in assessing the best recommendations for the Conservation Commission. Coordinator Capone

recommended B. Porter as a great resource with he vast knowledge of the glaciated areas in Sudbury. Mr. Porter eagerly accepted the request to work with Mr. Benton.

The Chair thanked Mr. Benton for his presentation.

Town Report: Coordinator Capone asked for any comments or edits on the draft Town Report provided to the Commission. The Commission approved the Report as submitted.

FY2023 Budget: Coordinator Capone reviewed the Commission’s budget for next year. She stated it was almost level funded from the previous year. She said a consultant had been hired to assist with baseline reports for Conservation Restrictions. She said she requested an additional \$2,000 in the budget to support the services provided by the Organization for the Assabet, Concord and Sudbury Rivers including water quality monitoring, training and scientific expertise they provide for the Hop Brook. There were some monies moved in to more appropriate fund categories, to better reflect how the money was spent. She stated this had been approved by the Town Manager and would soon be presented to the Finance Committee and Select Board for approval at the May Town Meeting.

With no further business, on motion by B. Porter, seconded by M. Sevier, to adjourn, via roll call vote the meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.