

Conservation Commission – Town of Spencer

Minutes



Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at 7:00 PM
Conference Room A
Memorial Town Hall

The Meeting was opened at 7:03 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Ernest Grimes (Chairman), Judy Lochner, Chris Plant, Warren Snow

Commissioners Absent: Mary McLaughlin, Karen Rubino, Steve Manuel

Staff present: Ginny Scarlet & Lisa Daoust

Minutes Approved: June 10, 2009 – *A motion to approve the minutes as amended (Lochner/Plant) passed 4/0.*

Signed & Notarized:

- *Wire Village Road, Order of Conditions – Ms. Scarlet added Findings, page 3A, to the Order of Conditions. She read them to the Commission.
- *North Spencer Road, Spencer Abbey Dam, Order of Cond. 320 Main Street, 3 year Extension

7:15 p.m. Opened the Public Hearing for Notice of Intent for Town of Spencer Property: Highland, Wilson, Lincoln, Pleasant, Main & Elm Streets DEP#293-0729

Mr. Rob McNeil, Superintendent of Utilities & Facilities, presented the project. A new water tank will be constructed on Highland Street. The overall parcel is approximately 10 acres of Town owned land. The School Committee has endorsed the project and the Zoning Board has approved the project. The project will provide water to the west side of the town. The water tank behind David Prouty High School will continue to service the east side of town.

The project has been deemed mandatory based on the findings from the administrative consent order that was issued and accepted by the town following the water emergency in April, 2007. This is one of three remaining projects.

The water tank will service the west side of town by providing a transmission main running down Highland Street to Wilson Street to Lincoln Street to Pleasant Street to Main Street and over to the Elm Street/High Street intersection. The water main will also run from a small section of Pleasant Street to High Street and to the intersection of

Highland and Grove Streets. The existing water mains within the project areas, which are from the 1930's, will be replaced.

The project is currently funded through a low-interest loan program through the state DEP. Overall, this project and the other two subsequent projects will cost approximately 6.6 million dollars. The money was approved at Town Meeting. There will be a 2% loan. The entire package will be submitted to DEP for review by July 31st.

The tank will be a half million gallon tank with two sections in case one side needs to be shut down for cleaning or other isolated reasons. The exposure of the front of the tank at the surface is approximately 6 feet. There will be approximately 2 feet of the back side of the tank exposed at the surface. The overall depth is 12 feet in total with about 10 feet of water in the tank at all times.

The water transmission main will be trenched under the culvert at the crossing at Cider Mill Brook. It is a narrow trench. The pipe itself is self supporting and the stream will pass through without any problems. A photo of the pipe was passed around to the Commission. All the work is going to occur in the roadways. Hay bales and silt fence will be installed on both sides of the road. Any work that is completed will be backfilled and brought to grade with gravel then asphalt on the surface. The site will be kept clean; there will be no stockpiling of materials in the buffer zone.

The Elm Street line is being upgraded from an 8" main to a 12" main because it is along the division of pressure line between the east side and west side. When the Elm Street culvert is being replaced this summer, the water main through that section of Elm Street will be replaced.

Jeff Murowski, Engineer from Tata & Howard, presented the site plan for the Wilson Street area. The heavy green line on the plan is the wetlands delineation performed by EcoTech. The light green line represents the 100' buffer. They are proposing to install hay bales and silt fence on the downgraded side of the project. Silt sacks will be installed around the catch basins. If the contractor needs to dewater the trench, the water will go into a sedimentation basin to help protect the resource areas. There is approximately 12,600 linear feet of water mains. Of that length, approximately 1,900 linear feet would be within the buffer zone or resource areas. The project will be within paved roadways so there will not be an increase of impervious areas.

Ms. Lochner asked about the gaps on the plan within the hay bale and silt fence line. Mr. Murowski said those lines represent driveways. Most of the driveways have a hump in the apron so stormwater runoff will not go down the driveways. Ms. Lochner asked if the work is right in the middle of the road or does it vary? Mr. McNeil said the work will vary. The new transmission main will be on the stream side of Wilson Street and the replacement of the existing main will be on the opposite side of the street. Mr. McNeil said they are going around town and removing the four antiquated pressure reducing valves. The valves were installed years ago to mitigate the pressurization. The valves have caused many maintenance issues for years due to leaking.

The schedule for construction is not set. The project will likely go to bid in September or October. There is a 30 day bidding period. Once the bids are received, they will be reviewed before the job is awarded. Once awarded, the contractor will put in their submittals and that could take another two weeks to a month. The actual water main construction may not start until 2010.

The environmental control barriers will be installed before construction starts. They will be routinely maintained to be sure the barriers are not compromised and no sedimentation is passing the barrier line. The barrier will not be removed until the Commission provided permission. Representatives from the town will be on site insuring all construction is proceeding to the design and the erosion control measures are in place and adequately protecting the resources. The SWPPP will be submitted to the Commission.

Ms. Lochner asked where the closest point is to any wetland. Mr. Murowski said the closest point would be at the culvert.

Mr. Bergeron, an abutter, said he discussed with Mr. McNeil possibly installing another buffer at the entrance to the water tank. Mr. McNeil said that he spoke with the project manager and they are going to plant arborvitae type plantings. The entrance will have a wood line, arborvitae plants, then the gate, arborvitae plants and wood line again. Mr. Grimes asked if Ms. Scarlet had any questions. She said no because they answered the questions she had emailed to them already.

The proposed conditions are as follows:

- Standard conditions

A motion to close the public hearing (Plant/Snow) passed 4/0.

A motion to accept plan as submitted with conditions as discussed (Lochner/Plant) passed 4/0, Order of Conditions to be issued.

Other Business:

6 Condon Drive: Ms. Scarlet said Mr. Lee Jarvis, Board of Health Agent, sent an email to Ms. Scarlet stating the septic system is backing up into the house and has become a public health hazard. Mr. Jarvis recommended that the Commission grant an Emergency Certification for repair of the septic system. Mr. Berthiaume is aware that a Notice of Intent still needs to be filed for the work. Ms. Lochner asked how close the septic system is to the wetland. Ms. Scarlet said there is a perennial stream that goes across the lot. The system is approximately 79 feet away from the stream. The system is not leaking into the stream. *A motion to grant an Emergency Certification for 6 Condon Drive (Plant/Snow) passed 4/0.* Hay bales and silt fence will be installed and Donnie Berthiaume will call Mr. Grimes for an inspection.

54 R. Jones Road: Mr. Carl Leinonen said trees came down into the water and on his property from the ice storm. Ms. Lochner asked how many trees came down. Mr. Leinonen said about 9 trees total. Mr. Leinonen's main concern is where the stumps are is really a mess and what can he do to clean them up. Mr. Grimes said there was a policy after the ice storm to allow downed trees to be removed without removing the stumps or disturbing the ground. This would be no different.

Mr. Leinonen said he is in the greenhouse business. He is looking to propagate blueberry plants to sell. Ms. Scarlet said this would be an agricultural activity and wouldn't need to be filed with the Conservation Commission because agricultural activity is exempt.

58-60 East Charlton Road: A Notice of Violation was sent to the owner. Ms. Scarlet said she did receive a phone call from the owner. He responded properly and this will get straightened out. Mr. Grimes said he drove by there. He said he was talking about the other side of the pond.

Zukas Farm: Mr. Grimes asked if anyone has been out to inspect Zukas Farm. Ms. Scarlet said she has spoken with them and when she is back from vacation in July, she will be calling them to inspect. Mr. Grimes said if you drive down Meadow Road you can see all the stockpiles on the Zukas property.

Pine Acres: Ms. Scarlet scheduled a meeting with Paul Guida and the Board of Selectmen. The meeting will be on July 20th at 11:00 a.m. The Water Commissioners have a meeting with Ms. Scarlet, Lee Jarvis, Rob McNeil, Mark Robideaux and Paul Guida also on July 20th at 9:30 a.m.

Vacation Schedules: Ms. Scarlet told the Commissioners when they know their vacation schedules, to let Lisa know.

Route 31: Ms. Lochner asked if the town or the state was doing the work by Muzzy Brook. The hay bales have been floating and whoever is doing the job needs to be notified. Ms. Scarlet said she has the contact information of the contractor doing the project and she will get in touch with him.

Ms. Scarlet is changing her hours as of July 1, 2009. They will be on Monday's, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Wednesday's, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Also she will attend the Conservation meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday nights.

New Applications: NONE

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. (Snow/Lochner) passed 4/0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lisa Daoust, Clerk
Development & Inspectional Services