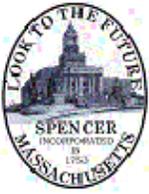


Conservation Commission – Town of Spencer

Minutes



Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 7:00 PM
Town Hall, McCourt Social Hall

The Meeting was opened at 7 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Mary McLaughlin, Dana Reed, Warren Snow, Margaret Emerson, James Bouley, Brian Graeff, John Haverty (arrived at 7:20 p.m.)

Staff present: Margaret Washburn

Minutes Approved: February 10, 2016 – *A motion to approve the minutes as amended (Snow/Bouley) passed 6/0.*
February 24, 2016 – *A motion to approve the minutes as amended (Bouley/Graeff) passed 6/0.*
March 9, 2016 – Tabled to April 13, 2016

Signed: 19 Woodchuck Lane, Order of Conditions
48 Paxton Road, Order of Conditions

7:15 p.m. Opened the Continuation of Public Hearing for Notice of Intent for Caruso Construction

Property: Lot 1, North Spencer Road, Spencer, MA DEP#293-0873

At the request of the applicant, the hearing has been continued to April 13, 2016.

7:17 p.m. Opened the Continuation of Public Hearing for Notice of Intent for Caruso Construction

Property: Lot 2, North Spencer Road, Spencer, MA DEP#293-0865

At the request of the applicant, the hearing has been continued to April 13, 2016.

7:18 p.m. Opened the Continuation of Public Hearing for Notice of Intent for Caruso Construction

Property: Lot 3, North Spencer Road, Spencer, MA DEP#293-0866

At the request of the applicant, the hearing has been continued to April 13, 2016.

7:20 p.m. Opened the Continuation of Public Hearing for Notice of Intent for Caruso Construction

Property: Lot 4, North Spencer Road, Spencer, MA DEP#293-0867

At the request of the applicant, the hearing has been continued to April 13, 2016.

7:21 p.m. Opened the Public Hearing for Notice of Intent for PLH, LLC

Property: 144 Mechanic Street, Spencer, MA DEP#293-0876

Steve Broyer, from PLH, LLC, presented the proposed solar project. Mr. Broyer said they purchased the land in May of 2014. He has the Spencer Fish and Game Club on board with having the access road on the south side of the property. Mr. Broyer said there is a lot of grading and at least 10 feet of cutting that will be done for the access road. New detailed plans will be submitted. The solar field is 4.4 megawatts dc and 3 megawatt ac. The one thing that has changed is 345 modules will be installed instead of 310 modules.

Mr. Broyer said the inter-connection for the inverters will be buried underground. The wetlands will be avoided. There will be directional drilling under the intermittent stream. Mr. Broyer said there is a 14-foot access ring road around the perimeter. The perimeter of the roadway will have a swale.

Mary Bennett asked if people buy into these solar projects. Mr. Broyer said no. Ecos Energy is connected to National Grid. It's not a community solar garden. They are a stand-alone power company.

At the request of the applicant, the hearing has been continued to April 13, 2016.

7:40 p.m. Opened the Public Hearing for Notice of Intent for Boy Scouts of America

Property: Browning Pond, Spencer, MA DEP#293-0875

Ms. Washburn said that National Heritage Endangered Species Program never received a copy of the Notice of Intent. Mr. Matt Salem said they did send a copy of the project description and the associated figures. Ms. Bria Arvidson sent them a full copy of the NOI. They submitted proof of mailing to NHESP.

Matt Salem said they propose to manage invasive and aquatic nuisance vegetation growing in and around the Boy Scout areas. A survey was performed in October, 2015. The pond is healthy and diverse but milfoil is a problem. Mr. Graeff asked where the scout swimming area is. Mr. Salem pointed it out. Mr. Salem said they canoe and sail at the north end of the pond.

Mr. Salem said herbicides and algaecides are proposed. Diquat is the primary method for milfoil. Ms. Washburn read DEP's comments. She asked for a plan showing the treatment areas. Ms. Washburn asked how they can avoid impacts to the native species. Mr. Salem said the timing of the treatments can affect how the herbicides work. Ms. Washburn asked for a schedule of the application treatments. Mr. Salem said copper sulfate is only for use if a cyanobacteria bloom occurs. He said that plants are going to die off anyway whether herbicided or not. Mr. Graeff asked what other options are there to herbicide. Mr. Salem described to the Commission other options for herbiciding. Mr.

Graeff asked what the reasons are for the project. Mr. Reed said other local lakes and ponds are treated. Mr. Salem said they are not trying to remove all the vegetation. They want to target the high-use areas of the pond. Mr. Salem said they don't want to wait until the natives become dense and become a problem. The primary driver is to manage the invasive species.

Mary Bennett of 46 Browning Pond Circle said she does not want them to put herbicide in the lake. She said the wildlife should be protected. Mr. Charles Bellemer of 56 Browning Pond Circle asked what happens to the plants that die or get hydro-raked. Mr. Salem said they get dumped on land to de-water and composted in uplands. Ms. Washburn read an email from Tom Pelletier. Ms. Bennett applauded. She is concerned about the health effects from swimming in treated water. Ms. McLaughlin asked if the state owns the lake then how did the Boy Scouts of America get to file as the applicant. The abutters have just as much of a right. Mr. Reed said to his understanding there is some agreement between the Commonwealth and the Boy Scouts.

Mr. Bellemer asked if there is some way of monitoring the concentrations after the herbicide is applied. Mr. Salem said that other Conservation Commissions required extensive testing. Ms. Washburn asked when will monitoring reports be submitted. Mr. Salem said the reports will be pre, post and annual. Mr. Salem said they will not be herbiciding anything in the Town of Spencer. Ms. Bennett commented that in her opinion it's an incredible act of ignorance that we as a species would do this to the environment. The Commission will do a site visit on April 10th at 9:30 a.m.

At the request of the applicant, the hearing has been continued to April 13, 2015.

9:09 p.m. Opened the Continuation of Public Hearing for Notice of Intent for James Laney

Property: Holmes Street, Spencer, MA DEP#293-0874

At the request of the applicant, the hearing has been continued to April 13, 2016.

Other Business:

Stream behind Knights of Columbus: Ms. McLaughlin said a concern was brought to her attention that a bunch of debris is in the river behind the K of C and if the debris is not cleaned out it could block the culvert that goes under the street. Ms. Washburn will go there and take pictures and send them to the Commission.

22 Podunk Pike: Ms. Washburn said she inspected in response to a request for Certificate of Compliance. She said the basin was not vegetated. She told the engineer, Chris Taylor, of Beals & Thomas, to contact her to re-inspect when the basin has grass that has been mowed three times.

GH Wilson Road: Ms. Washburn said she received two complaints about this logging job. She contacted the DCR forester. Ms. Washburn said she inspected and found no violations.

Site Visits: The Commission will do site visits on March 29th at 1:45 p.m.

New Applications: 22 Buteau Road, RDA
 15 Pine Acres, RDA
 21 Ethier Drive, NOI

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. (Snow/Reed) passed 7/0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lisa Daoust, Senior Clerk
Development & Inspectional Services

Documents reviewed at the 3/23/16 Spencer Conservation Commission meeting:

Agenda for the 3/23/16 meeting
Margaret's report dated 3/23/16
Minutes from the 2/10/16 meeting (approved as amended)
Minutes from 2/24/16 meeting (approved as amended)
Continuance form for Lots 1-4 North Spencer Road (signed)
Continuance form for the Holmes Street solar farm (signed)
NOI file for 144 Mechanic Street
Continuance form for 144 Mechanic Street (signed)
NOI file for Browning Pond herbiciding
Continuance form for Browning Pond herbiciding NOI (signed)