

**Dracut Conservation Commission
Minutes of March 1, 2023 – 7:00pm
Douglas G. Willett, Board of Selectmen Chambers**

Commissioners Present: Dave Sutherland, David Martin, John Svrcek, Rob Sheppard, Arthur Taylor, Rob Northrup, Conservation Agent Lori Cahill and Jessica Arseneaux, Recording Secretary

Commissioners Absent: John Jackson

Chairman Dave Sutherland opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

Community Input: None

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Arthur Taylor motioned to approve February 15, 2023, minutes, seconded by Mr. Dave Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence: 251 Sladen Street requested a continuance for the next meeting, April 15, 2023. Motion approved by Mr. Arthur Taylor, seconded by Mr. John Svrcek. Motion approved unanimously.

DEP Comments: DEP numbers came in on time for 3/1/23 meeting.

Public Hearing: Notice of Intent: 1046 Lakeview Avenue: DEP#145-1191:

Mr. Ryan Paul, Environmental Partners group, LLC states that the work includes two precast concrete headwalls and wingwalls, a new 10'x10' 3-sides rectangular precast culvert with 2' of streambed fill, replacing guardrail, grading, upgrading utilities, paving, and site restoration.

Mrs. Jamie LaVette from Environmental Partners states that the existing culvert consists of an arched corrugated metal pipe, approximately 7-ft wide by 5-ft deep. The culvert is a stream crossing for the Peppermint Brook through Lakeview Avenue. The culvert is undersized, and these deficiencies could lead to future roadway failures. EP observed severe scouring in the bank of the brook about 40-feet downstream of the culvert. The segment of Lakeview Avenue at the Culvert's crossing is a heavily trafficked two-lane roadway. The roadway is approximately 40-feet in width and includes one travel lane in each direction running North to South, and sidewalk on the northly side. The culvert's watershed consists of two different sections. The upper watershed consists of 410 acres of drainage area that contributes to a deep marsh wetland located along Peppermint Brooks bound by Chuck Drive, Bridge Street, Frank Street and Stonebridge Drive. The deep marsh overflows to reform Peppermint Brook along the southwestern edge.

The lower watershed consists of a 620-acre drainage area which is divided into four sub catchments that contribute to Peppermint Brook. Flows from the Peppermint Brook pass through several culverts downstream to the lakeview Avenue Culvert.

Mrs. LaVette states that the proposed project includes the replacement of the existing culvert with the installation of a 10-ft wide by 10-ft high concrete box culvert. Two feet of the proposed culvert will be buried within the streambed, for a total clear open area of 10-ft by 8-ft. EP designed the culvert for the conveyance of the 100-yr 24-hr storm, to meet the Massachusetts Stream crossing Standards to the maximum extent practicable, and to stabilize the roadway above. Replacement of the culvert with a 10-ft

wide by 10-ft high precast three-sided concrete box culvert with footings, construction of the replacement culvert will include a 45-degree bend to realign the stream.

Mrs. LaVette states in addition, the design includes restoration to the stream banks, and extended flood boundaries using a conservation slope stabilizing seed mix with erosion control banks. The downstream bank is being restored with a tiered stone wall with natural plantings for stabilization. The areas upstream and downstream of the proposed culvert will create an increase to the ecological value.

Mrs. LaVette states that in addition to the proposed work, installation of a 42-inch diameter PVC gravity bypass with pump backup and removal and replacement of an existing 6-inch ductile iron water main. A temporary 10-ft by 5-ft rip-rap dissipater pad will be placed at the discharge end to prevent scour and erosion.

Mr. Martin asked Mrs. LaVette and Mr. Paul when they are planning on starting this project. Mr. Paul stated in the summertime, in June, during the dry season. It will take approximately 3-months for this project. The road will close during construction.

Mr. Taylor asked if there will be a generator on site. Mr. Paul stated there will be a generator on site.

Mr. Paul states they will have to get rid of some trees but will be adding native trees and native plants to the area.

Mr. Sutherland asked Mr. Paul about the dewatering plan he was looking for and it being designed later. Mr. Paul states that the Bypass plan in general is the Bypass plan, the dewatering is the performance based where the contractor will have a couple of different methods for keeping the water down, which is eventually stamped by a professional engineer.

Mr. Rob Sheppard asked Mr. Paul about the 45-degree bend of the culvert. Mr. Paul states that the existing pipe in the culvert is pointing straight to the bank, downwards. Using the culvert to redirect the flow, instead of hitting the end of downstream. Mr. Paul states that there is an access point if there is any major debris, it will just be natural movement in the stream. There will be sand below it, and with natural rock on top.

Mr. Rob Sheppard asks Mr. Paul if this meets Stream Crossing Standards. Mr. Paul states not all the Stream Crossing Standards, due to not meeting with the width completely. Mr. Paul states for the span it is 16.4 ft, and they are at 1-ft. Meeting the sub straight standard, the openness ratio calculated to .82, which they are only at .9 ratio. Mr. Paul states they are meeting the openness ratio standard as well. Not meeting the bank standard.

Mr. Arthur Taylor asks Mr. Paul about how the project is going to shift the flow of the stream, whereas it is directly coming downwards. Mr. Paul states that it has a straight flow downwards, nothing in the way.

Mr. Sheppard asks about the restoration part of downstream, is it going to be a natural stream. Mr. Paul states that it will be minor riprap. Within the first tier, the water will not go over it. Bringing in new riprap and stone. Some riprap is on the wingwalls.

Mr. Sutherland asks Mr. Paul what the drop is from upstream to downstream. Mr. Paul states it is approximately a foot, over 80-ft. Shifting it to the center of the bank.

Motion to close the hearing made by Mr. Rob Northrup, seconded by Mr. Rob Sheppard. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to issue an Order of Conditions made by, Mr. Arthur Taylor, seconded by Mr. John Svrcek. Motion passed unanimously. Special conditions, set of final construction plans.

Public Hearing: Notice of Intent: 970 Broadway Road: DEP#145-1192:

Mr. Ray Boghos from Boghos Properties, states that he wants to construct an industrial building within the buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetland. Mr. Boghos states that the project will be an industrial/business building, most likely to be an industrial manufacturing building. Access to the building is to the left of entrance with a parking lot, 100 ft from the road. All the loading for the building for the tractor trailers will be done north of the building. In the back of the building will be an additional parking area and south of the building is a fire access loop for the fire trucks to get around the building.

Mr. Scott Smyer's from Oxbow Associates, Inc states that there are wetlands scattered all around the perimeter of the property. Isolated wetlands, and bordering wetlands. Further to the north there is isolated wetlands, labeled as Wetlands C on the plan. Now filling in that use to be vernal pool, it's about 12 ft deep at most, north-west of the property, proposing to build a new wetland over there, deeper than the one being filled, this project is only impacting that one isolated wetland which is 2,962 sq. ft. The replacement area is 5,600 ft. it is almost a 2 to 1 replacement. The little work that is being done in the 50 ft buffer zone is temporarily.

Mr. Dave Sutherland asked if there is a plan for underground installations. Mr. Boghos states in the 5,200 for underground drainage. Mr. Henry states that the drainage system includes a series of inlet catch basins that collect the water, pipe it to separators for pre-treatment and as treatment there's infiltration, underground storage which complies to the 8 by 8 concrete gullies that are 5 ft. tall, in total there is over 430 of them on site. The peak flow rate is low considering it is a 17 acre site, to meet the DEP standards and local standards, will have to migrate the flow. Post construction water flow to Broadway Rd. will be less. The infiltration area is comprised to 3 areas, there is a substantial area about 220 underground gullies that are 5 ft. tall, there's an infiltration system and a detention system. There is an above ground basin that takes off run off. The standards have to migrate the flow to all contributing areas so there is an analyze point along the East side. The flow is mitigated during every storm.

Mr. Rob Sheppard asked about the catch basins. Mr. Henry states that the top catch basin is 199 ½, bottom of the catch basin is 197, 198 catch basin, and is purposely set very flat.

Mr. Taylor states that there wasn't an exactly safe area for snow storage. Mr. Henry states that himself and Mr. Boghos will take further time to look over the plans and find an area for snow storage.

Mr. Dave Sutherland asked Mr. Henry about the residue from the previous owner. Mr. Boghos steps forward and states that 80 walls were removed due to contamination.

Mr. Alex Ogonowski, located at 267 Methuen Rd. states that he is an Abutter on 970 Broadway Rd. on two sides of the property. During winter seasons, the salt and snow will be stored towards his property line will flow by gravity onto Mr. Ogonowski's property and kill his trees and vegetation. Mr. Ogonowski states where the catch basin is right up against Broadway Rd, will flow right into his property. Mr. Henry states how currently, 7 acres of water flows by gravity onto Mr. Ogonowski's property but post construction what will flow onto Mr. Ogonowski's property from the East side is just a 15 ft stretch of vegetated slope so the flow will be extremely less. Mr. Ogonowski asked the Conservation board if they are willing to walk the property line to visually see what his concerns are. The board agreed on a site visit on March 13th, 2023, at 4:00 pm.

Motion to continue the hearing until March 15,2023 made by Mr. Dave Martin, seconded by Mr. John Svrcek. Motion passed unanimously.

Public hearing: Notice of Intent: 251 Sladen Street: DEP#145-1176:

Mr. Spiro Skinsacos requested for a continuance until the next Conservation meeting on March 15, 2023. The continuance will allow the applicants team to meet with the town and address any plan changes and discuss sending the project out to peer review.

New Business: None

Old Business: By Law: definitions.

Informal Discussion: Conservation Restrictions: Mr. Dave Sutherland suggested a few changes in the Conservation Restrictions, boiler plate, recreation, and open space. Mr. Arthur Taylor made a motion to accept changes, Mr. John Svrcek seconded motion, Mr. Rob Sheppard obtained motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn: Mr. Arthur Taylor made a motion to adjourn, Mr. John Svrcek seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Next Meeting: March 15, 2023 – 7:00 pm.