



CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – January 11, 2016

Present: Eldon Abbott-Vice Chair, Bob Mosher, Laurie Freeman, Michael Ide, Loni Fournier- Conservation Officer and Polina Supin- Asst. Conservation Officer

Absent: Scott McIsaac-Chair, John Morrissey, Frank Gaul,

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Ide motioned to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2015 Commission meeting.

Second: Commissioner Freeman

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Requests for Determination of Applicability

91 Tower Road

Applicant: Christopher Gudas & Susan Swords

Representative: Jeffrey Hassett

Proposed: Garage, replacement of existing septic system, and associated improvements

Steve Hassett, Representative, presented proposed construction of a new garage, replacement of existing septic system, and associated improvements.

The applicant is proposing to construct a 1,068 ft² detached garage, the majority of which will be located within the Outer Riparian Zone (100-200 ft) of the Riverfront Area. The proposed garage will sit on a slab, which will be located almost entirely on the existing driveway surface. The existing impervious area within Outer Riparian Zone is 4,519 ft².

The applicant is also proposing to remove the current leaching field, located under the existing driveway, and install an upgraded septic system southeast of the proposed garage. The existing septic tank will be pumped out, crushed and abandoned, and a new septic tank will be installed. The new septic system will also connect to the proposed garage, which will contain a bathroom. Both the new septic tank and new leaching field will be moved out of the Outer Riparian Zone. Other than the pipes from the garage and house to the septic tank, no other part of the new septic system will be within the Outer Riparian Zone, or any other Buffer Zones on the property.

Finally, the applicant is proposing to reconfigure their existing driveway. The new driveway will provide access to the front and rear of the proposed garage, as well as to the existing house. Some vegetation will be removed and impervious surface will be constructed in order to create the new driveway. A portion of this activity, on the north side of the proposed garage, will take place within the Outer Riparian Zone. In this location, the applicant proposes to remove any existing vegetation up to a rock ledge. Any steep soil slopes that remain after clearing the vegetation will be stabilized with jute mesh until new vegetation is established. The utility pole that is currently in the Outer Riparian Zone will be removed and the electric service will run underground.

Staff visited the site on 12/15/15. There is a wetland to either side of the property and a vernal pool to the southeast of the existing driveway. The proposed projects are outside of the Vernal Pool Protection Zone (100 ft) and the 100 foot

buffer of the bordering vegetated wetlands on either side of the property. There is a downward slope from the existing driveway to the wetland on the eastern side of the property. This slope contains some thin trees and brush, which will be removed for the construction of a portion of the new driveway and the new leaching field.

Commissioner Freeman asked about the requirements for construction in the Outer Riparian Zone. Mr. Hassett responded that less than 10% or 5,000 square feet, whichever is greater, of the entire riverfront area on the property can be altered.

The Conservation Officer stated that straw wattles and hay should not be used as erosion control. Mr. Hassett responded that he would use a silt fence instead.

Commissioner Mosher asked Mr. Hassett if he knew of anything about 185 Tower Road. Mr. Hassett responded that he did not.

Motion: Commissioner Ide motioned to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability for the work proposed at 91 Tower Road and adopt the findings of fact a and b and conditions 1-3 of the staff report.

Findings:

- a. The project meets the requirements of Part 1, Section 7.1 of the Town of Hingham Wetland Regulations governing procedures for a Request for Determination of Applicability.
- b. The work described is within an area subject to protection under the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, § 40) and the Town of Hingham Wetland Regulations, and will not alter or adversely affect the area subject to protection under the Act.

Conditions:

1. Erosion controls shall be installed prior to the start of construction and inspected by the Conservation Department; straw wattles or hay bales will not be used as a form of erosion control.
2. Any debris that falls into the Outer Riparian Zone, Vernal Pool Protection Zone or the 100 foot buffer zone for the bordering vegetated wetlands shall be removed immediately by hand.
3. The Conservation Department shall be notified to any changes in plans prior to proceeding with said changed plans.

Second: Commissioner Mosher

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Notices of Intent

246 Lazell Street – DEP 034-1245

Applicant: James McGorry & Alicia Secor Representative: Brad Holmes

Proposed: Driveway and associated improvements

The hearing was continued until the January 25, 2016 meeting, at the request of the Representative.

6 Willow Circle – DEP 034-1246

Applicant: Edward & Marylyn Murphy Representative: Thomas Liddy

Proposed: Addition to house and new deck

The filing was withdrawn by the applicants.

Certificates of Compliance

31 Otis Street – DEP 034-1196

Order of Conditions was issued on 7/7/14 for repairing a failed revetment at the Hingham Bathing Beach. Staff visited the site on 1/5/16. Revetment adheres to the as-built plans. Staff recommends issuance of a Certificate of Compliance.

Motion: Commissioner Freeman motioned to issue a Certificate of Compliance to 31 Otis Street.

Second: Commissioner Mosher **In Favor:** All **Opposed:** None

135 Hersey Street – DEP 034-1197

The hearing was continued until the January 25, 2016 meeting, at the request of the Applicant.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Submitted,

Elizabeth Berry, Administrative Assistant

Approved as amended on 1/25/16