

**CITY OF GARDNER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Gardner City Hall – Manca Annex
115 Pleasant St., Room 202

978-630-4014

Gardner, MA 01440

fax 978-632-1905

MEETING

Monday, January 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

CITY HALL ANNEX

SECOND FLOOR MEETING ROOM 203

Members Present:

Chairman Greg Dumas, Michael Hermanson, David Orwig, David Beaugard, Norman Beaugard, Duncan Burns, and Donna Lehtinen. Also present was Conservation Agent Katie Guertin and Administrative Clerk Kris Singer

Members Absent:

None

Guests & Visitors:

Chris Stoddard – Stoddard Consulting, Tim Slocum – Owner of Matthews St. property

MEETING – brought to Order Chairman G. Dumas at 6:30 pm

Minutes

Vote to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of October 25, 2021 and November 8, 2021

- October 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes:
 - Motion to approves Minutes “As Printed” made by D. Burns, seconded by M. Hermanson and voted all in favor, with D. Beaugard, N. Beaugard, and D. Lehtinen abstaining.
- December 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes:
 - Motion to approves Minutes “As Printed” made by N. Beaugard, seconded by D. Orwig and voted all in favor, with D. Burns abstaining.

Request for Determination for Applicability

The Gardner Conservation Commission will hold a joint Public Meeting under MGL, Ch. 131, § 40, Wetlands Protection Act and the City of Gardner Wetlands Protection Ordinance on the **Request for Determination of Applicability** filed by **T. Slocum Inc.** for work to be conducted at 0 Matthews Street, Gardner, MA 01440 (W37-21-1). Proposed consists of grading within 100 feet of a bordering vegetated wetland.

- Chris Stoddard (Engineer) and Tim Slocum (Owner) present for the meeting. C. Stoddard explained that the property is at the end of Matthews St at the intersection of Route 140. Wetland delineation and flagging took place on 6/24/21 and 7/13/21. Also, soil testing was completed.

- The proposal includes two 7,495 sqft buildings with parking and pavement. The driveway will be 450 feet off Route 140. All storm water will flow into catch basins. No water will be discharged off site without being treated.
- C. Stoddard also noted that where they are “creeping into” the 100 foot buffer, grading will be present. All infrastructure will be outside of the buffer. Silk fence and straw waddles are proposed erosion control.
- G. Dumas wanted clarity and confirmation on the clearing that has been done on site. C. Stoddard says that they have kept the clearing to the areas noted by the surveyor. G. Dumas notes that the cleared area looks bigger, and C. Stoddard explained that the whole property is 20 – 25 acres, so in reality they have cleared only a little of it.
- D. Orwig had them clarify on the provided map the 100 and 50 foot buffer in the northwest corner of the property. C. Stoddard noted that there is an isolated flagged wetland there.
- G. Dumas questioned that there appears to be grading in the 60 foot No Build zone. C. Stoddard stated that they are 100% outside of the 50 foot No Build zone, and G. Dumas pointed out that Gardner has a 60 foot No Build zone. C. Stoddard stated that they can adjust the grading to be outside of the 60 foot No Build zone.
- D. Lehtinen inquired as to the proposed Use for the property. T. Slocum stated that they will be rentable storage bays for contractors. He also added that Phase 1 of the build will include the septic system.
- D. Burns asked if the property is pitched to the rear of lot, and C. Stoddard answered that it actually pitches back toward Matthews St.
- G. Dumas inquired about the stormwater maintenance plan. C. Stoddard indicated that the Planning Board has seen it and approved the project, subject to the Conservation Commission’s approval. He also added that a condition put forth by the Planning Board is that the Maintenance Report is to be submitted to the City quarterly. D. Orwig said that the Conservation Commission needs the Maintenance Plan for their records.
- G. Dumas stated that the Commission can’t approve the request until they see a revised plan, noting that no grading will be in the 60 foot No Build zone.
- D. Beaugard inquired about their plan for snow storage. C. Stoddard noted that the plan is for snow storage to be 500 feet from the nearest wetland.
- A Motion to approve a Negative 3 Determination with the stated No Build zone modification noted on the plans. The Motion was made by D. Beaugard, seconded by M. Hermanson, and voted all in favor.

Request for Certificate of Compliance

The Gardner Conservation Commission will hold a joint Public Meeting under MGL, Ch. 131, § 40, Wetlands Protection Act and the City of Gardner Wetlands Protection Ordinance on the **Request for Certificate of Compliance** filed by **Theresa and Laurence Thompson** for work completed at 44 Brookside Drive, Gardner, MA 01440 under DEP file#160-070.

- K. Guertin explained that this request is being made due to the 1986 Order for the roadway. The house itself is not affected by it.
- M. Hermanson noted that the sale of the house went through, and K. Guertin said that Conservation never holds up a sale. G. Dumas stated that the Commission now puts stipulations in the deed.
- A Motion to approve the Certificate of Compliance was made by D. Burns, seconded by D. Beaugard, and voted all in favor.

New Business

Alisaukas Field-soil testing

- The Commission is looking for funding to do testing in the spring.
- D. Burns mentioned that a Municipality may not even need to pay for the testing.

Accounts review

- The Commission is still awaiting numbers to review.

Waddles

- G. Dumas noted that Dartmouth is not allowing hay waddles because it's not known what is in them. He believes that Gardner should just mandate the use of straw waddles.
- K. Guertin suggested that it can be made a condition for each case.
- G. Dumas also suggested that recommended verbiage can go onto the website.

Downtown Improvement Phase III

- K. Guertin explained that this is regarding the proposed new parking lot for the Bike Path (on Park St, near the Elk's Club). She further explained that this is Lyndsy Butler's project (the former Conservation Agent), but she can confirm there is no ground work proposed.
- K. Guertin suggests an RDA is the way to go, and G. Dumas agrees because the Commission needs to know if the work is within the 100 foot buffer.

Bike Path Bridge

- N. Beaugard noted that they are still waiting on the state.

Zoom Meetings

- All agree that after the January 24th meeting, the Commission should meet via Zoom.

Upcoming Meetings

January 24

7:15 pm A motion to adjourn was made by N. Beaugard. The motion was seconded by D. Burns, and voted unanimously, all in favor.

NOTICE: These Agenda items consist of items that are reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting and are specifically allowed to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.
