

**MINUTES OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
October 24, 2013**

Present: Steve DeGabriele, Chairman
Tom Tanner, Vice Chairman
Anthony Merlino, Commissioner

Absent: George Loring, Commissioner
Scott Dowd, Clerk

Also Present: Mary Ellen Schloss, Administrator
Lee Hultin, Recording Secretary

Commissioner DeGabriele called the October 24, 2013 meeting to order at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall, Council Chambers, 75 Middle Street, Weymouth, Ma.

Abington Conservation Commission members in attendance were:

*Denis Bergin, Chairman
Joe Feeney, Vice Chairman
Jerry Kelliher
Kathy Creighton
Russell Forsythe*

**Route 18 Widening – Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation – Hearing
Mass. Department of Transportation
(DEP File 81-1134)
*Delineation of wetland resource area***

Appearing before the two Conservation Commissions were the following:

TetraTech: Mark Fobert, Brian Ackley, Ed Hutchinson, Beth Parent and Mass DOT: Tim Dexter,

This is a special public meeting being held jointly with the Abington Conservation Commission, for the Route 18 widening project.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is applying for an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) to delineate wetland resource areas (including Bordering Vegetated Wetland, Inland Bank, Land Under Water, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, and Isolated Vegetated Wetland) along the Route 18 corridor, from Charmada Road south to the Abington Town line. Also, a Notice of Intent to widen Route 18 by adding an additional travel lane in both the north and south-bound directions, to construct stormwater improvements and to conduct wetland mitigation and other project-related work within the Wetland Resource Areas and their Buffer Zones.

DEP File #81-1135

Widening of Route 18 including stormwater and wetland mitigation

Cmmr. Tanner made a motion to open the public hearing on Route 18 Notice of Intent at 7:13 pm and was seconded by Cmmr. Merlino.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

Mass DOT is not required to notify abutters.

Mark Fobert, Tetra Tech reviewed a Power Point presentation with both Weymouth and Abington Conservation Commissions.

Because this project will permanently fill more than 5,000 square feet of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands in Weymouth and does not qualify for a "limited project" exemption, the Weymouth Conservation Commission must hear the project, deny it, and then Mass DOT will send it to the Department of Environmental Protection for a Superseding Order of Conditions which they will deny as well. After that, Mass DOT will file for a variance with Mass DEP to begin the review process. DEP agreed to work closely with both communities to make sure our concerns are met.

There have been 5 intersection improvement projects within the project corridor and they are:

- Randolph Street/Route 139
- Pond/Pleasant Street
- Columbian/Route 18
- Middle/West
- Park Avenue/Route 18

These areas have been expanded to four lanes. The goal is to relieve congestion.

In Weymouth there is 5,892 square feet of Bordering Vegetation Wetlands with most of it along the Naval Air Base (ECC19EBQ).

There are also impacts to SSTDTC's jurisdiction that total 424 sq feet of BVW, 1275 sq feet of Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, 695 sq ft of temporary impacts to BVW.

This impact cannot be avoided as it is along the roadway that is being widened. They decided to use retaining walls to minimize impacts.

Brian Ackley, Tetra Tech stated there will be sidewalks on both sides of Route 18.

Mike Smart asked how the water gets to the air base side so there is no flooding on the side with Barbara Lane. (Answered later in the second half).

Denis Bergin Chairman of Abington Conservation Commission arrived at 7:35 pm

On sheet 12 there is a small location by the stream that is the jurisdiction of SSTDTC.

Chairman DeGabriele stated that they will be denying this Order of Condition as it is larger than the exemption we are allowed to make. We will add this to our comments.

Harvey said the other flooding issues are because the track was starting to sink and they infused it with liquid concrete which exacerbated the problem.

Cmmr. Tanner asked what the square footage of the retention area that already exists at the bank is. Beth stated it is in the storm water report. It will be larger than the existing one.

Mike Smart asked if there is an option for an underground retention at South Shore Savings Bank as their property is beautifully manicured. Could we consider a redesign to be more aesthetically pleasing as this will have a chain link fence around it and would not look nice. It was stated that it is Mass DOT's policy not to install underground storm water basins. They will all be open. It was stated that it is easier to maintain the open basins and they are more cost efficient.

During a 100-year storm these catch basins will overflow into the bank parking lot and follow the same pattern it does today.

Stormwater Outfall #14 is on Pond Street. Mike Smart asked if this will be redefined and repaired heading east towards the tracks or just at the outfall end and it was stated just at the outfall end.

Outfall #8 is at the granite business and Mass DOT is taking that property due to the proposed grading to the bridge and installing a basin.

Mary Ellen Schloss wants to make sure the water from the outfall is making it into the cross-culvert and going under the railroad tracks.

Outfall #9 at the intermittent stream adjacent to #1225 Main Street will be cleaned of all debris. Mass DOT will maintain the same depth.

Outfall #10 is located at Shea Memorial Drive intersection. There is no space for a storm water basin at this location.

Outfall #11 is located at Derby Street. There is an 11% peak flow reduction. Chairman DeGabriele said there needs to be further discussion on this location. There is storm drain that is completely blocked and it doesn't flow very well. Mary Ellen asked the team to look at possible improvements to this area. She also asked if the existing outfall could be raised up. Also, is there enough capacity downstream to deal with the flow from Outfall 10 & 11? After exiting the wetland north of the outfall, flow travels in a perennial stream in two culverts under Randolph Street and one of those is filled with sediments.

Mass DOT will advertise the project for September, 2015. The variance will be filed relatively soon.

Mike Smart is very concerned about the area near Derby Street and the flooding issues on Route 18 as the pipes that are underneath are either filled or too far down and need to be raised. He

Will more water flow into French's stream because of this project and it was stated not long term but it may happen during construction, he is not sure.

Abington stated that they will continue their public hearing as they would like to perform a site walk with Tetra Teach.

The public was given the opportunity to speak.

The Abington Conservation Commission voted to continue their public hearings on the ANRAD and NOI to November 19th.

Cmmr. Tanner made a motion to continue the Weymouth public hearing on the Route 18 Notice of Intent to November 13th and was seconded by Cmmr. Merlino.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Cmmr. Tanner made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 pm and was seconded by Cmmr. Merlino.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

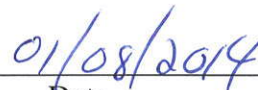
Respectfully submitted by,

Lee Hultin
Recording Secretary

Approved by:



Scott Dowd, Conservation Clerk



Date