

**Rochester Conservation Commission
May 2, 2017**

Present: Michael Conway, Chairman
John Teal, Vice Chairman
Daniel Gagne
Laurene Gerrior
Christine Post
Rosemary Smith
Maggie Payne, Associate Member

Absent: *(None)*

Margaret Gonneville, Board Administrator
Laurell J. Farinon, Conservation Agent

The meeting was held at the Rochester Town Hall Meeting Room. Chairman Conway called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being televised.

Public Meeting

A Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Clifford J. Hedges IV, 55 Pierce Street, Rochester, MA 02770 for property located on Neck Road, Rochester, MA 02770, designated as Lot 36F on Assessor's Map 44. The applicant proposes to construct a new single-family house with private well and subsurface sewage disposal system, access driveway to Neck Road over existing woods road, and clearing of approximately 40,500 s.f. of existing pine grove. Erosion control measures will be implemented.

Documents submitted: A plan entitled "Plan of Site, Proposed House and Subsurface Sewage Disposal Prepared for Clifford J. Hedges IV Lot 36F – Neck Road, Rochester, Mass." dated April 6, 2017.

Rick Charon of Charon Associates, Inc. and Clifford J. Hedges IV were present at the public meeting.

Mr. Charon stated that the applicant plans to construct a 12' wide driveway in the location of the existing woods road. The proposed single family dwelling is outside the 100 foot Buffer Zone and outside the 200 foot riverfront area to Black Brook. The site is located within a mapped area subject to protection by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). He said that proposed clearing will be less than two acres disturbance: a turtle biologist will be doing a turtle sweep of the property.

Member Smith asked if the driveway will be pervious or impervious; Mr. Hedges replied that it will be a gravel driveway. Member Gerrior asked if people will still be allowed to walk across the right-of-way and Mr. Hedges replied yes.

Agent Farinon stated that it would be prudent to get the NHESP letter, speak to the City of New Bedford, and get the wetland change maps before approval of the RDA. She recommended that the Commission continue the public meeting until the next meeting on May 16, 2017.

A motion to continue the public meeting until May 16, 2017 was made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Gerrior. **The motion passed by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. (6-0-0)**

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Public Hearing

DEP SE 272-0534 (Continued from April 18, 2017)

An Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation was filed by Steve Long of Borrego Solar Systems, Inc., 55 Technology Drive, Lowell, MA 01851, for property located on 453 Rounseville Road, Rochester, MA 02770, designated as Lots 7 & 1H on Assessor's Maps 31 & 34. The purpose of the filing is to confirm 2,295 linear feet of bordering vegetated wetland boundary.

Agent Farinon stated that the applicant requested a continuation of the public hearing to the next meeting to be held on May 16, 2017.

A motion to continue the public hearing until May 16, 2017 was made by Vice Chairman Teal and seconded by Member Smith. **The motion passed by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. (6-0-0)**

Commission Business

For Signature

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of April 18, 2017 was made by Member Gagne and seconded by Vice Chairman Teal. **The motion passed by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained. (6-0-0)**

Voucher(s)

The following voucher was approved for payment: Bristol Engineering Advisors, Inc. / Decas Cranberry 109 Neck Road Escrow Account: \$3,683.75.

New Business

Recommendation to Board of Selectmen to Appoint Maggie Payne as a Permanent Member

A motion to recommend Associate Member Maggie Payne as a permanent Member to the Conservation Commission was made by Member Smith and seconded by Vice Chairman Teal. **The motion passed by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. (6-0-0)**

Tata & Howard Request for Input on Submittal Requirements for Gravel Packed Well Construction, Mary's Pond Wellfield Rehabilitation Phase II

Agent Farinon explained that she met with Jon Gregory of Tata & Howard and Robert Zora of the Marion Department of Public Works at the site on March 21, 2017. The Town of Marion Water Division is proposing to install three new 16" by 10" gravel-packed replacement wells at the existing Mary's Pond Wellfield located off Mary's Pond Road. The proposed gravel-packed wells are located directly adjacent to wetland resource areas. Tata & Howard requested input on submittal requirements for the above referenced construction.

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Member Gerrior expressed concern about the discharge of pumped water directly into the culvert at Doggett Brook. Agent Farinon agreed with her concern, and stated that a discharge point up gradient of the stream would be better if possible. After discussion, the Commission concluded that a Notice of Intent filing will be required for the proposed project.

Invasive Species Management Project

Agent Farinon reported that she met at Eastover Farm with Diane Lange of the Trustees of Reservations (TTOR). TTOR proposes vegetation management at Field #7, which will require work within the Commission's jurisdiction. She explained that the area has become overgrown with multiflora rose, which is a monoculture in some areas that is excluding native vegetation. TTOR will be preparing an RDA filing for submittal to the Commission soon.

Branch Brook Land Preservation Project

Agent Farinon reported that a MA DEP Drinking Water Supply grant has been awarded to the Town of Marion for permanent protection of the Roy Hawkes 164-acre property off Wolf Island Road in Rochester. The Branch Brook Land Preservation Project is a collaborative project with Buzzards Bay Coalition and the towns of Rochester, Marion, Mattapoisett, and Fairhaven. The project is on track to close by the end of June or early July.

Future Meetings and Site Visits

Commission members discussed their availability for upcoming meetings and site visits. All members present except for Member Post will be available for the next meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 2017. Members agreed do the site visit on the Ferreira - Vaughan Hill Road Notice of Intent before the meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 2017. The other two site visits will be done by Agent Farinon who will take photographs for review by Commission members.

Mitigation for Violations

Agent Farinon requested feedback from Commission members on wetland mitigation projects where property owners cut vegetation in wetland resource and buffer areas without Conservation Commission approval. Agent Farinon reported that one suggestion was a permanent conservation easement that could be recorded. Vice Chairman Teal stated that he liked that idea. Agent Farinon stated that she would have to talk to Town Counsel to see if the Commission has the right to ask for a permanent easement as mitigation.

July 4, 2017 Conservation Meeting

Conservation Commission members decided to eliminate this meeting because of member availability. The meeting can be rescheduled to another date if something urgent comes up.

Endangered Species Day

Member Gerrior informed the Commission members that May 19, 2017 is Endangered Species Day. She passed out a list of the endangered species for the Town of Rochester.

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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m. on a motion made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Gagne. **The motion passed by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. (6-0-0)**

Margaret Gonneville, Board Administrator

Michael Conway, Chairman