

TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING Minutes

For the Westhampton Conservation Commission meeting on August 4, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. at the Westhampton Town Hall, #1 South Road Westhampton MA

Members Present: Fred, Brad, Jessica (recording)

Also present: Bill and Linda Truswell, Jim Gracia, Dan Nitzche, Chuck Conner; Heather Commee, (Wetland Consultant), on behalf of Conners

1. Call to Order 7:00 pm

2. Accept Minutes meeting of: July 21, 2021

3. Review correspondence: Fred sent email to Rob Miller regarding status of solar panel site; Jim Jewel's and Mark Stinson's emails regarding repairs, maintenance, retaining wall filings at PIL; Conners; Blueberry Hill paperwork

4. Old/Unfinished Business: Review/Update Site visits: Blueberry Hill, Conners property (Jessica and Fred visited site 7/28);
Montague Rd., Solar panel site: based on site visit (Fred and Jessica visited site 7/28) Cons Com will issue Certificate of Compliance only after site is deemed stable— Fred sent email to Rob Miller. Based on site visit, Cons Com determined that in order to issue Certificate of Compliance, silt fence and wattles must be removed from North solar field, except for section near vernal pool, which has an erosion problem and needs reinforcement; a percentage of the Southern field needs reseeding; Fred will obtain drone photos and relay information to Rob Miller. Once stabilized, South solar field silt fence and wattles must be removed.;
PIL—review Mark Stinson's comments regarding repairs, maintenance, and retaining wall filings at Pine Island Lake

5. New Business: Chuck Conner property, Blueberry Hill NOI/RDA
Hearing begins at: 7:10pm

After Fred and Jessica visited site with Conner and Heather Commee, wetlands consultant, on 7/28, we saw that the house and driveway will be constructed high and dry, without disturbing wetlands. Wetlands well delineated; existing silt fence. After reviewing plans, Cons Com agrees to fill out Determination of Applicability and deliver within a couple of weeks

Hearing ends at: 7:15pm

Truswell, 193 Main Rd.—Order of Conditions/NOI (refer to Mark Stinson's comments regarding his suggestion that wetland replication should be monitored by wetland scientist and also that a direct hydrologic connection (culvert) be added under driveway)

Truswell NOI Hearing continued at: 7:16

Dan Nitzche explains that the plan has been revised slightly to include a single hydraulic connection under the driveway so as to not isolate a portion of the BVW from the other part of the wetland. Fred believes there should be another hydraulic connection in addition to the one that is planned; Nitzche believes there won't be a problem because it would not isolate wetland and water will flow through; Army Corps of Engineers gave permit; Jim Gracia will revise site plan to show one culvert.

Truswells pay remaining filing fee: \$250 to Westhampton (for wetland crossing)

Truswells request a Special Condition in the Order, allowing them to annually mow vegetation (as has been the case for decades before adoption of Wetlands Protection Act); Fred questions mowing situation—how much will be mowed? Can they also remove invasive species? They plan to clear up to limit of tree line (using brush hog); could be an ongoing Condition. Fred is concerned about monitoring and believes they should have professional wetland monitoring for two years; they agree to monitoring for two years (growing seasons; will monitor annually in July—under 20% invasive species); Fred believes that paperwork should be edited to clarify intent; Cons Com will fill out Order of Conditions after further review; Cons Com will send original copy to Truswells; Certificate of Compliance may ultimately take two years, after monitoring

Hearing ends at: 7:40

Cons Com votes to approve NOI

6. Agenda next mtg to Town Clerk's mailbox: Agenda/Notice of Meeting will be sent to Clerk's mailbox for August 18, 2021

7. Adjourn: 7:52pm