

**TOWN OF HAMPDEN
MASSACHUSETTS**

Town House
625 Main Street
Hampden, MA 01036

Phone 413-566-2151 Ext. 110
conservation@hampden.org
Kelly McCormick, Clerk



Conservation Commission
Bonnie Geromini
Judy McKinley Brewer
Philip Grant
Ted Zebert
Andrew Netherwood
Tim Hanley
Branden Garvey

Accepted: 5/30/2018

HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SPECIAL CONSERVATION MEETING

May 30, 2018

Attendance: Chairman, Bonnie Geromini, and Conservation Board Members, Judy McKinley Brewer, Ted Zebert, Andrew Netherwood and Tim Hanley were in attendance.

Not in Attendance: Conservation Board Member, Phil Grant

Chairman, Bonnie Geromini, opened the special meeting at 7:01 pm.

New Business:

BWC East Brook, LLC (296 Ames Rd.) – A Request for Determination of Applicability was filed for a proposed ground mounted solar array on the Wilbraham/ Hampden line.

Lexi Barlow and Matt Parlon of Blue Wave Solar appeared before the Board on this matter.

The Commission met with the applicants at 296 Ames Rd. prior to tonight's meeting. Conservation members Bonnie, Judy, Ted and Tim completed a site visit on the property.

Ms. Barlow and Mr. Parlon informed the Commission that the engineered plan including wetland delineations would be completed by June 11, 2018. The Commission briefly discussed that based on the site visit they do not believe the proposed work will impact the wetlands however the Commission will need to review the plan before issuing a determination.

Judy asked if all of the power for the solar array will be going up in the access road on the Wilbraham side of the proposed array. The representatives stated that was correct, and also mentioned that discounted power will be available to anyone who wishes to sign up. The power will be connected to the Wilbraham substation. Mr. Parlon presented the Commission with a drawing showing the intended interconnection path.

Bonnie informed the applicants that the Commission will need to see the numbers on the flags. Tim mentioned that in the summary in the RDA, it states that all work will remain outside of the 50' buffer zone however they had stated that all panels and fencing would remain outside of the 100' buffer zone.

The applicants informed the Commission that this will be corrected to say all work will remain outside of the 100' buffer zone. They would like to reserve some site for shade management.

Judy asked if the applicants could provide the Commission with an approximate count of the trees they would be trimming for shade management and also ensure the Commission they would not be removing any stumps.

Ted asked the applicants if they were planning to use any herbicides on the property. The applicants replied that they would not. Ted informed Ms. Barlow and Mr. Parlon that the Commission would like to see in a statement somewhere that no herbicides will be used and it will be mow only. Ms. Barlow indicated that would not be a problem, as they are planning to keep the area rather scenic and keep the habitat with wild flowers. She informed the Commission that they are open to conditions in the RDA and can provide something in writing regarding the maintenance.

Bonnie stated that the applicants still have to go before the Planning Board for the proposed project. The applicants stated that they will be going to the Hampden Planning Board and the Wilbraham Planning Board around July. They will also be attending a Conservation meeting in Wilbraham on June 11, 2018. Ms. Barlow informed the Commission that they are flagging the property next week. Once the flagging is done, another site visit can be done for a determination to be issued. Bonnie stated that due to the distance the applicants must drive to get to Hampden, the Commission could accommodate them by scheduling a site visit and a special meeting on the same day. That way the applicants could head to the Town Hall following the site visit. The applicants informed the Commission that they will be done with all of the work needed by June 11, 2018.

After a brief discussion, the Commission stated that they would be available to schedule a site visit and a special meeting on Tuesday, June 12, 2018. They could meet for a site visit at 4:30pm, followed by a Special Meeting at 5:15pm.

Bonnie asked if there was anyone from the public present in connection to this matter. Tammy Chaffee of 276 Ames Rd. introduced herself as a neighbor to the property and indicated that does not like the idea of having solar there. She would like the solar panels to stay far away from the wetlands. Ms. Chaffee stated that she lives up there because it is beautiful and does not want to see solar panels or poles. Ted informed Ms. Chaffee that the Commission has no control over the poles as they are going to be located on the Wilbraham side.

The Commission also discussed that the area of the proposed project is not under NHESP. Judy made a motion to continue this matter to a Special Meeting on June 12, 2018 @ 5:15pm. Andrew seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Greathorse (Golf Course & Farms) – Two Notice of Intents for the proposal to initiate an aquatic management program for the ponds at the Greathorse Golf Course (128 Wilbraham Rd.) and the Greathorse Farms (231 Wilbraham Rd.)

Matt Salem of Solitude Lake Management appeared before the Board on this matter. Also present is Naomi Valentine of SWCA, who was hired by the Commission as a consultant for this matter.

The Commission reviewed the contract received by SWCA for the peer review of each Notice of Intent. Bonnie made a motion to accept the contract as written so that SWCA can begin the peer reviews. Judy seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Mr. Salem informed the Commission that he is happy to get the peer reviews started and asked how long they would take to be completed. Ms. Valentine informed him it would take approximately 2 weeks to complete both peer reviews; one for the golf course ponds and one for the farm pond.

Mr. Salem stated that he has prepared some additional information regarding the Commission's request for well sampling. He reviewed information from the Practical Guide for Lake Management and the Wetland Protection Act regarding aquatic management. Mr. Salem stated that in regards to the water well supply, the only herbicide listed to be detrimental within the zone of wells is a chemical called 24D. Additional notification and testing is required when 24D is used as it is an herbicide that is able to transfer through the soil. Mr. Salem stated that the herbicides listed in the Notice of Intent are not able to transfer through the soil.

The state (Mass DEP), scientists and experts have already done thorough analysis of each herbicide listed in the Notice of Intent. He feels that the requirement for a third party to conduct water sampling is unnecessary. Instead he asked that the third party peer reviews specifically focus on the impact the herbicides and active ingredients have on the water supply.

Acceptance of Minutes:

- The minutes from the meeting on March 29, 2018 were accepted as presented.
- The minutes from the special meeting on April 24, 2018 were accepted as amended.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly McCormick
Conservation Clerk