

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2022
6:00PM

Richard Gullick, Elizabeth Ricci-Blair, Michael Cichy, and Chuck Raymond (Interim Chair) present. Others present, Nicholas Kremp. Amanda Lansing, Kenneth Ridlon, and Jeffrey Goyne absent.

The meeting opened at 6:00 PM.

Nicholas Kremp, the new Conservation Agent, introduced himself to the Commission.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 131 Section 40 of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act the City of Leominster Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on a notice of intent regarding the Barrett park phase two improvements address 40 Barrett park drive map and parcel 345-1 DEP file number 199-1154.

Anthony Cleats represented the applicant, the City of Leominster. A representative of the Leominster Recreation Department was also there. There were two improvements of Barrett Park about three or four years ago. Phase one included redoing all the paths around the ponds, adding a pavilion down near the dam, and making it more accessible for ADA requirements. To make it easier to get to for the public, Phase two is focused on the existing playground area. It's just redoing the existing area not expanding the limits of what's there today but it's going to be removing that existing playground and putting in a new playground, new structure, new wood chips, and some pads for when the kids slide down and hit that. A boulder tree limb area for kids to jump on and play around in. Also some wood chips, redoing and reorienting the existing sand volleyball court, doing some more to make it more defined and usable and then also providing a gravel path for accessibility to the people. Right now there is no accessible path to provide ADA access for anyone to get to that safely. Redoing some of the grading in this existing lawn area to kind of smooth it out make it more of a consistent grade again for accessibility in there and usability of the space and then we restore it back to the lawn for erosion control. We're proposing a silt sock still fence line along the perimeter of the work area around the pond for reference.

Mr. Raymond asked if pretty much everything here is already existing and they're just making amendments to their improvements.

Mr. Cleats replied yes it's an update so they are getting rid of old stuff and updating it with new stuff.

Mr Raymond asked if there are any new plantings proposed.

Mr. Cleats replied yes. They have some new flowering trees going in there. There are three sugar maples, three eastern redbud, three tulip trees, three pin oak, and then for shrubs - five summer sweet and three rows of rhododendron.

Mr. Raymond asked about the path and its opening and the grading. Mr. Cleats showed how it is all graded away from the pond and set up for stormwater and erosion control.

Mr. Raymond asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak regarding the public hearing. No one spoke. The hearing was closed at 6:15 PM.

Dr. Gullick made a motion to approve this plan with the normal conditions and special conditions. Mr. Cichy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a vote of 4-0.

The next public hearing on the agenda (689 Wachusett Street chicken coop, no DEP File # yet issued) was not opened and no action was taken after discussion with the applicant. It was continued to a future meeting.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 131 Section 40 of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act the City of Leominster Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing for a request to amend an order of conditions for the construction of a duplex residential building at 1284 Central Street. Map and parcel 566 parcel 1-1 DEP file number 199-1140

Chris Sanders represented the project on behalf of the Whitney Companies. He explained it is an amendment to an existing order of conditions. Transferring conditions for the property at 1284 Central Street the applicant has since decided to use a different configuration of a building and to realign the driveway in this area. Originally the driveway was going to go out to Legate Hill but it was becoming too cumbersome with the grading and all the other utilities in the area and the applicant decided to go with a different footprint for a building. "As such, we updated the proposed layout of the building to be a little bit closer to the wetland by about 10 feet, moving the building itself closer by 10 feet and then redirecting the driveway out to Central Street. One of the benefits of this project is this amendment is reducing the net impervious area on the property by approximately 700 or 690 square feet. The building is a little bit bigger but we're removing a significant amount of the pavement that's on the property so it's going to ultimately lend itself to a little better condition stormwater-wise going to the wetland area, so that's primarily the major changes. We're still maintaining the small settling area in the lower portion of the site that pretty much captures all the runoff before it hits the wetland. We're still making all these original utility connections that are being maintained. Sewer will go out to Central Street being a common sewer line and water will ultimately connect within Legate Hill. We will maintain the same limit of erosion control so we're not decreasing the limit of disturbance on the property, we're just requesting a modification to use a slightly different building and driveway configuration."

Dr. Gullick requested that there be a barrier to prevent erosion. The applicant agreed.

Mr. Raymond opened the public hearing for public comment. No one spoke. The public hearing was closed at 6:30 PM.

Mr. Cichy made a motion to approve the amended order of conditions. Ms. Ricci-Blair seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 4-0.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 131 Section 40 of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act the City of Leominster Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on a notice of intent regarding the construction of a garage with associated driveway and site grading 27 Elm Street map and parcels 121-5.

Mr. Kremp explained that this should be in regard to a floating dock and a clerical error was made on the agenda. The applicant is waiting to hear back from Mia at DEP. Mia stated that the plans that were submitted were hand drawn and hard to interpret. The dock also does not appear to be a floating dock. This public hearing was continued to the next meeting.

Certificate of Compliance

90 Lake Shore Drive DEP 199-1107

Mr. Kremp explained that he has seen the work. It is in progress and when it is finished he will be in contact with the Commission about it.

96 Exchange Street DEP file number 199-1061

The extended expiration date is now next month. Mr. Kremp is going to research and get the back story on the property and issue at hand.

Enforcement

803 Pleasant Street correspondence from current owner's attorney past cease and desist order. Mr. Cichy mentions that this matter was sent to the City's attorney. Mr. Kremp makes a note to follow up with the City's attorney.

1775 Locke Drive

Work in 200 foot riverfront area, cease and desist order sent. Went on a site walk with Mr. Piermarini. Going to follow up.

North Street Parcels 297-27

Tree removal within 200 feet of wetlands cease and desist order sent. Mr. Kremp has been out to this site. Equipment has been removed and cutting has stopped.

Ms. Ricci-Blair made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Cichy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a 4-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.