

Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 * 978-772-8249 * 978-772-8208 (fax)
Minutes for 12/1/11 – Approved 1/12/12

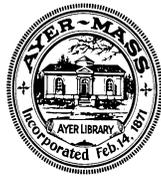
Location: Ayer Police Station, Conference Room

Members present: Bill Daniels (BD, Chair), George Bacon (GB), Takashi Tada (TT), Jessica Gugino (JG, Clerk), Warren Ball (WB), Becky DaSilva-Conde (CA, Conservation Administrator)

APAC taped: Yes

7:18 PM – Open Meeting

- **Public Hearing (cont'd): NOI – Sewage Pump Station Replacement, Groton School Road (DEP # 100-0346)**
 - Raymond Willis, of Onsite Engineering, represented Ayer DPW.
 - DPW needs to replace an existing pump station on Groton School Road.
 - This station is located entirely within the 100 ft. inner riparian zone adjacent to James Brook, as well as within the Petapawag ACEC.
 - The current pump station is over 40 years old and at the end of its design life.
 - Pumps and controls are also below grade with limited access by ladder to a very confined space.
 - The replacement will consist of a new wet well and pump station building, 70 ft. of new gravity sewer, and 45 ft. of force main.
 - Pumps and controls will be located above grade, providing safer access for maintenance.
 - A new meter chamber will allow DPW to track flow more accurately.
 - Other planned on-site improvements include a roof runoff system for stormwater management (currently non-existent), a vegetated swale or rain garden, removal of an existing fence, and paving of the access drive.
 - David E. Ross Associates delineated the wetland resource area on 1/26/2010.
 - Silt sacks filled with mulch compost will be used for erosion control.
 - All work will be done within previously disturbed areas and where possible, new pipes will be moved away from James Brook.
 - Additional discussion focused largely on the logistics of the construction process given the very limited size of the construction site.
 - In particular, concerns over staging issues involving use of a pump truck and heavy crane were raised.
 - In the process of diverting the flow to the new wet well and to prevent spillage into the brook, pumping into a truck will have to be done at a certain point.
 - BD said the truck should be located on Groton School Road rather than driven onto the tight site where it will damage erosion controls.
 - In addition, a crane will be required to install the new wet well, made of precast concrete, and the new prefabricated and pretested building.
 - Mr. Willis indicated that they will be developing a traffic control management plan with the police, and will consider using police details if necessary.
 - Other points:
 - The contractor will have to provide a portable backup generator during construction as the existing generator building will need to be razed to make room for the new station.
 - The ground underneath the prefab station will be compacted using both flowable fill and structural fill.
 - BD asked that protection, including haybales and filter fabric, be provided for the nearby catchbasins on Groton School Road.

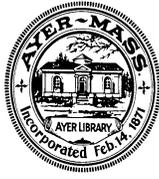


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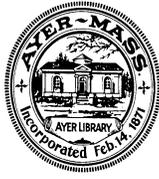
- Mr. Willis agreed to attempt to ascertain where those catchbasins drain to, although it is expected to be James Brook.
- A revised plan needs to be provided to CA indicating location of a dewatering and sedimentation control basin.
 - The dewatering basin should employ two rows of staggered haybales with filter fabric in between, rolled up and over the haybales..
 - This must be in place from the first day of construction.
- Unless a designated and approved site for storage is identified, excavated material will not be permitted to be stored onsite overnight and must be removed.
- A stone/sediment trap will be placed at the entrance to the construction site.
- A copy of the Order of Conditions must be available onsite at all times.
- The DPW must contact ConCom promptly if any problems arise.
- A pre-construction meeting will be scheduled after a contractor is selected.
 - BD said this meeting needs to be scheduled at a time when CA can attend, so that ConCom can be sure the contractor understands the ground rules of the OOC from the start.
 - At this meeting, ConCom will want to hear a precise sequence for how the contractor will be doing certain things (especially concerning placement and use of the pump truck and crane).
- The bid for the contractor will be awarded in the spring when DPW plans to do the work.
- Taking into account snowmelt and spring rains, in addition to the area being very wet anyway, Mr. Willis said he agreed with ConCom that the environment would be better protected by the work being done a little later, in the summer.
 - Mr. Willis will convey this to DPW.
- GB moved to issue an OOC for DEP # 100-0346; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
 - The OOC will not be issued until revised plans have been received by CA.
- GB moved to continue the Public Hearing to 12/15/11; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Discussion: Rick Roper / Crabtree Development, Ridge View Heights/Pingry Hill**
 - Mr. Roper appeared before ConCom to discuss erosion control improvements for Hickory Way.
 - CA had contacted Mr. Roper regarding ongoing problems with degraded erosion controls and stormwater runoff creating significant problems where Hickory Way meets Rte. 2A.
 - Sedimentation has also been reaching nearby Bennetts Brook.
 - Mr. Roper explained that a large part of the problem has been caused by water running overland from a newly constructed cul de sac, up the hill from Lot 37 (corner of Hickory Way/2A).
 - In response, new haybales and silt fencing have been placed on Lot 37 and construction has begun on a new detention basin.
 - Two trenches have also been cut across the hillside above Lot 37 in order to direct water into this basin.
 - BD said while this is good, over the past 3 years this site has given rise to problem after problem.
 - BD expressed additional concern that when the developer cuts in the next roadway that will also connect to Rte. 2A, these problems will continue.
 - Mr. Roper said the next road will not be nearly as deep a cut as Hickory Way or Snake Hill Road were, and that they have learned in the process.
 - For Mr. Roper's edification, BD said that in the case of The Willows development, use of a temporary berm has been found to be both more effective and less expensive than haybales.



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- Mass DEP also prefers this solution for controlling stormwater runoff during construction.
- Mr. Roper assured ConCom that, with the new basin and trenches, there would not be the same amount of overland runoff from this area in the future.
 - Mr. Roper added that the construction process has been slowed by poor sales.
 - BD said that while ConCom appreciates the difficult economic climate, it cannot put the issue of slow house sales ahead of protecting the environment.
- CA reiterated that ConCom has altered the sequence of construction in its OOCs now, so that roadways and sedimentation controls must be complete before housing construction can begin.
 - Mr. Roper indicated that these changes apply to Phase III, now underway, and that the detention basin was being worked on now in accordance with this.
 - Mr. Roper said, however, that there will be mishaps in large phased projects like Pingry Hill; that 100% success is not possible.
 - BD responded that there have unfortunately been significant mishaps for the past three years, which was why this discussion was having to take place.
- From the audience, Dave Bodurtha complained that there has been a continuous failure of haybales and silt fencing on this site.
 - He said they have not been properly maintained nor promptly repaired, leading to repeated negative impacts on Bennetts Brook.
 - Mr. Roper disagreed with this assessment.
- BD said the challenge now was in going forward, using lessons learned to better handle future phases.
- Mr. Roper said he would have sedimentation runoff accumulated in Bennetts Brook dug out.
 - CA said every time there is a significant rainfall, Bennetts Brook should be checked for siltation buildup and shoveled out immediately if necessary.
- BD told Mr. Roper to pull material out of Bennetts Brook the next day and asked that he take pictures and forward them to CA so that ConCom has a record of its condition on 12/2.
 - BD asked Mr. Roper to do this every few months so that photos are part of the public record, enabling ConCom to track the area and better respond to complaints.
- BD also asked for an email from Mr. Roper indicating when the berms will go in.
- **Discussion: COC for Richard Coke, 88 Central Avenue, DEP #100-0295**
 - CA is in receipt of a letter from Daniel B. Wolfe, P.E., of David E. Ross Associates, confirming that all additions were built as planned and providing a copy of the as-builts.
 - BD wants to confirm the as-built is accurate and asked CA to coordinate a mutual time for him to perform a site walk with Mr. Coke.
 - CA said she wanted to make sure that car parts stored near the garage did not contain any fluids.
 - CA also noted a discrepancy in that the existing plot plan shows one shed but the as-built indicates two.
- **Accounts Payable**
 - The Lowell Sun: \$68.00, for the Public Hearing legal notice for Emily's Way.
 - GB moved to approve payment of \$68.00; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
 - The Lowell Sun: \$57.80, for the Public Meeting legal notice for Robert McKean, 5 Groton-Shirley Road.
 - GB moved to approve payment of \$57.80; TT 2nd.



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- Motion approved unanimously.
- Aquatic Control Technologies: \$1080, final payment for 2011 weed treatment on Sandy Pond and Pine Meadow Pond.
 - BD said he was not prepared to sign off on this bill until ACT's post-treatment inspection results and final report have been reviewed.
 - CA has received this material and will forward it on to the rest of ConCom.
- **CA Update on The Willows, Enforcement Order**
 - CA attended an inspection at the Willows on 11/28 with Mass DEP's Joe Bellino, and Mary Trudeau, the wetland specialist who works for Habitech, co-developer of The Willows.
 - CA and Mr. Bellino were both disappointed at the slow rate of progress on the site.
 - At Mr. Bellino's previous visit to the site on 9/29/11, he had asked that the developer spray binders on the exposed slopes to stabilize the soil; this has yet to be done.
 - On the positive side, the detention basin has now been dug to its full size.
 - Turbidity, however, remains a significant problem.
 - CA said the developer has created a circuit of pumping water from the basin by hose uphill so that it can be run through a treatment train that uses flocculent logs before returning back to the basin.
 - Given turbidity remains high, CA said this was not effective and it would be better to pump the water into a truck for treatment than uphill.
 - However, this is a more costly method and it appears that the developer has thus far been reluctant to spend money for this purpose.
 - Temporary curbing has been put in, which has helped somewhat with control of runoff.
 - The hole for the foundation of a future triplex has been enlarged to serve as an additional collection point.
 - Nevertheless, Mr. Bellino remained very disappointed with the extent of exposed slopes still in need of stabilization.
 - He now requires that the developer submit reports to DEP twice a week rather than weekly until at least 12/15, when the environmental assessment report is due.
 - The Willows has not yet hired an environmental assessment specialist, as requested by Mr. Bellino back in September.
 - It appears they may be using wetland specialist Mary Trudeau in this regard.
 - The Cease & Desist remains in effect; if the developer does not comply successfully with DEP requirements, new building cannot commence.
- **9:30 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
 - GB moved to adjourn; TT seconded.
 - Motion approved unanimously.