



TOWN OF WEBSTER

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Webster Conservation Commission Minutes of the Meeting – August 7, 2023

A meeting of the Webster Conservation Commission was held on Monday August 7, 2023 at 5:50 p.m., in person, in the Webster Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Attending: Chairman Joey Wigglesworth, Vice-Chairman Richard Parent, Members: Pamela Sheeran, Dr. Robin Jewel, Jay Camaratta, Wetland Consultant Brandon Faneuf, EcoSystem Solutions, Inc.

Absent: Member Candace Shivers

Staff: Conservation Agent Dawn Portman, Executive Assistant Kelly Lyman.

The Meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m.

Chairman Wigglesworth stated that the meeting was being recorded, and that if anyone in the audience wishes to record the meeting for personal use, they must notify the Commission.

Chairman Wigglesworth welcomed new member Jay Cammarata.

Public Hearings – Notice of Intent – NOI

52 Lake Parkway – DEP #323-1251 – Bartlett High School Project (Application) Renovations and Site Improvements (Continued from 7/17/23) - Vincent Dube, Flansburgh Associates, Inc., presented the phasing plan of the project on the screen for all to see. The plan showed the building separated into wings A, B, C and the offices. He explained that modular classrooms are in now in use. Mr. Wigglesworth asked if there is any disturbance from the modular classrooms. Mr. Dube stated that there are erosion controls and the site is currently stabilized. He reviewed the parking plan briefly. The existing driveway, which is currently two-way traffic, will be changed to one-way, including a bus drop-off and parking lots in the front and the back of the school. Planting will include native canopy trees, sugar maples, river birch, evergreen deciduous shrubs, ground juniper and low-maintenance native perennials and grasses. Mr. Wigglesworth suggested adding pollinator garden or something that could also be used for education. Mr. Dube noted there will also be a recharge space and Alicia Zukowski will address that later in the meeting.

Athletic field consultant, Jonathan Charwick, Activitas, Inc., presented the plan for the track on the screen and stated that only the track and field area will be updated. No changes are planned for the baseball field and it remains on the plan as an existing condition. He presented the existing conditions and pointed out the wetland areas. The track will be expanded to the west to make it wider and the press

box will also be expanded. The grassy areas to the north and south will be paved. The outcropping to the north will be graded slightly. He stated that 6 catch basins will be added to help with the existing drainage issues. Water will flow into the drainage on the sidelines and to the south and there will be a positive pitch towards the sidelines. The closest point of the track to the wetland is 5 feet in the southwest. The field will remain natural grass with a mix of Kentucky Blue and natural grasses. Mr. Charwick stated that the irrigation system is not yet designed. A four-foot high fence with two entrances will surround the track. There is no access to the abutting condominium complex. The construction equipment will be brought in through Kosmas Street, and then through the school. Mr. Wiggleworth requested a phasing sheet in the plan set, containing a full description of the construction phasing on each section of work and would like a representative to check in with staff and the Commission when each phase starts. Construction starts in December 2024 and continues through 2026.

Alicia Zukowski, Samiotes Consultants, Inc., presented the stormwater engineering portion of the plan with the wetland buffer zones. There is an eight-foot wide path from the school to the fields for pedestrians and maintenance equipment. The main drainage line extends across the street to the pond. West of the track there is an 18 inch pipe connecting the wetlands. She then reviewed the proposed conditions plan. There will be a gated 20 foot access driveway for emergency vehicles. Some pavement will be added. Drainage is proposed for each parking area, and will discharge into the wetland. Mr. Wiggleworth advised that some of the property abutters have water issues and suggested that a rain garden could be added near the parking lot in order to mitigate some of that water. Ms. Zukowski explained that there would be no increase in discharge because they are adding impervious space. The existing parking lot will be resurfaced and repaved. She also stated that catch basins were added to the plan since the land is very flat in that area. Mr. Wiggleworth asked if there will be a curb to slow the water flow, and Ms. Zukowski confirmed there will be a curb. Ms. Zukowski also stated that the town engineering consultant, Chuck Eaton, CHA Consultants, is reviewing this design for the Planning Board. Mr. Camaratta asked if Mass DEP has reviewed the project and Ms. Zukowski replied yes, DEP provided one comment regarding wetland replication.

Brandon Faneuf, Ecosystem Solutions, Inc., provided his comments to the Board and reviewed the wetland areas on the plan. There is a compartmentalized wetland to the south in back of the parking lot and walkway. On the north side of the track is a wetland and a mostly manmade intermittent stream, and there is a catch basin. Water flows from the hill into the catch basin. He suggested using a dye test to see exactly where the water is flowing from the upper catch basin. The water around the south side comes out near the proposed wetland area. If the water is coming from discharge, they do not have to replicate. Andrea Kendall, LEC Environmental Consultants, Inc., was present and Ms. Portman asked her to speak to the Board, since she had done the delineation. Ms. Kendall stated that at the time of delineation, the features were not clear and that this area was overlooked in the reassessment. There are a couple catch basins feeding into it, and there were some wetland vegetation present. It was not a wetland, just saturated ground conditions. She explained the water there comes from the pavement and there is a pipe discharge. Mr. Faneuf stated that there were wetland flags to the southwest quadrant of the track, and an isolated wetland was located alongside of the track. He stated that Webster does not have a bylaw to protect isolated wetlands.

Mr. Wiggleworth suggested a designated compost area for grass and leaves. Mr. Camaratta asked if test pits should be done. Ms. Kendall stated they should first verify if there is an impact to the BVW.

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Mr. Faneuf stated that some cultecs were proposed, with a 2-foot separation to the ground water. They want to try to mitigate the stormwater to keep it away from the abutting houses. Mr. Wigglesworth suggested a rain garden or some kind of retention that can be used by the school. Mr. Faneuf questioned why the walkway is being extended to the north, closer to the wetland 25 ft. buffer. Ms. Zukowski explained that there is an existing walkway there, and if they extend it in the other direction they will lose some of the fields and play areas. She stated that the slope on the driveway was 1%. Mr. Faneuf suggested using a different type of grass, other than Kentucky blue grass, because it is a water hog, and that a drought tolerant grass would be better there. Mr. Faneuf stated that the O&M and sediment control plan should be incorporated into the special conditions. Ms. Zukowski stated that the Planning Board will have some changes also. Mr. Wigglesworth asked if some of the parking spots could be moved and also requested an island with vegetation. Ms. Zukowski stated that would be expensive and they have a very tight budget. She stated that regrading and changing the parking area would cost \$50,000 - \$60,000.00 and that it will be restriped. Mr. Parent stated that if this was a private project, they would request the same.

Mr. Wigglesworth summarized the Board's requirements for the plan and the next steps. He stated that there should be potential for a bioswale or raingarden. Wetland signs should be required every 10 or 15 feet in critical areas. A compost area should be added and clearly marked. The grass type should be changed to something other than Kentucky blue grass. The Board also expressed concern regarding snow and ice plowing. Mr. Camaratta asked about the drainage and Ms. Zukowski replied that they cannot fix the problems from the condos or other properties. She stated that the water is going into the wetland. Mr. Wigglesworth requested to add, if grading is to be done, a depression and natural vegetation would filter silts. Mr. Faneuf suggested that Ms. Kendall be present for the dye test.

Ms. Portman stated that there were changes made to the plans after they were submitted to the Conservation Commission, and to please notify the Board and keep everyone updated. The Board would like to hold an additional meeting on August 30 for this project, since the August 21 agenda is very long. There were no further questions from the Board or from the public.

Motion to continue the hearing to August 30, 2023 made by Mr. Parent, seconded by Dr. Jewell. Roll call vote: Dr. Jewell – yes, Mr. Camaratta – yes, Mr. Parent – yes, Ms. Sheeran – yes, Chairman Wigglesworth – yes. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Action Items

Request for Certificate of Compliance DEP #323-1165 - 6 Black Point Road – This item was continued to the next meeting.

Motion to continue the request for Certificate of Compliance for 6 Black Point Road #323-1165 to the next meeting made by Dr. Jewell, seconded by Ms. Sheeran. Roll call vote: Dr. Jewell – yes, Mr. Camaratta – yes, Mr. Parent – yes, Ms. Sheeran – yes, Chairman Wigglesworth – yes. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Draft Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2023 and July 24, 2023 – There were no edits or discussion from the Board.

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Motion to approve the minutes from July 10, 2023 made by Ms. Sheeran, seconded by Mr. Camaratta. Roll call vote: Dr. Jewell – yes, Mr. Camaratta – yes, Mr. Parent – yes, Ms. Sheeran – yes, Chairman Wigglesworth – yes. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion to approve the minutes from July 30, 2023 made by Ms. Sheeran, seconded by Mr. Camaratta. Roll call vote: Dr. Jewell – yes, Mr. Camaratta – yes, Mr. Parent – yes, Ms. Sheeran – yes, Chairman Wigglesworth – yes. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Staff Report – Ms. Portman welcomed Mr. Camaratta to the Board. She will send out the meeting schedule for 2024 for the Board to review, and would like to have that finalized by September or October. Having application submission deadlines is helpful for both the staff and the public. Mr. Wigglesworth requested that the members of the Board let him know if they will be late for a meeting. He also welcomed new member Candace Shivers, who was not present.

Next Meeting Date – August 21, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. and August 30, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. made by Dr. Jewell, seconded by Ms. Sheeran. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly Anne Lyman,
Executive Assistant

Exhibits:

Public Hearing – 52 Lake Parkway – 323-1251

- Revised Notification to Abutters; received May 4, 2023; Samiotes Consultants Inc.; 1 page.
- Correspondence; Email from DEP with File Number; June 6, 2023; 1 page.
- Application and Associated Documents; received June 20, 2023:
 - Plan Set; Bartlett High School Notice of Intent; prepared by Samiotes Consultants Inc.,; 24” x 36”; 37 sheets.
 - Notice of Intent; prepared by Alicia Zukowski, P.E., Samiotes Consultants, Inc.; 11 pages.
 - Project Narrative; Samiotes Consultants Inc.,; 9 pages.
 - Notification to Abutters and Certified Abutters List dated December 12, 2022; 9 pages.
 - Wetland Resource Area Analysis Report; Andrea Kendall, PWS, LEC Environmental Consultants, Inc.; dated January 28, 2021; 7 pages.
 - Map Set; Samiotes Consultants, Inc.; 4 pages.

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- Wetland Delineation Map; LEC Environmental Consultants, Inc.; 1 page.
- MassDEP Bordering Vegetated Wetland Delineation Field Data Form; 4 pages.
- USGS Stream Report; 5 pages.
- Construction Period Pollution Prevention Plan and Erosion Control Operation and Maintenance Plan; 6 pages.
- Drawing List; 1 page.
- Webster Conservation Public Hearing Notice; dated July 5, 2023; 1 page.
- Correspondence: Email; Tonight's Conservation Meeting; Alicia Zukowski; July 17, 2023; 2 pages.
- Correspondence: Email; Tonight's Conservation Meeting; John Bates; July 17, 2023; 1 page.
- Correspondence: NOI Peer Review 52 Lake Parkway / Map 12 Lot E-16 Webster, MA DEP file no. 323-1251; Brandon Faneuf, Ecosystem Solutions, Inc.; July 25, 2023; 10 pages.