

**CITY OF FITCHBURG
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE: Tracey Sarefield, chair, John Cordio, Mike Donnelly, Harry Karis, John Koutonen, David Streb (6)

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Tim Smith, Mike O'Hara

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m. at Fitchburg Fire Headquarters, Community Room, 33 North St.

Ms. Sarefield read an introduction stating the mission statement of the Commission, and the role & responsibilities of the Conservation Commission and the eight interests of the Wetlands Protection Act.

Minutes

Not ready yet.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice of Intent - Fitchburg Sports Complex Property Management, LLC, off Westminster Hill Road
(continued from 1/31/17)

Ms. Sarefield reopened the hearing.

Ms. Sarefield invited the applicants' engineer Greg Roy to give presentation.

Greg summarized changes since last meeting:

- Intermittent vs. Perennial Stream: They've submitted documentation to show that it's intermittent. Stream Stats shows drainage area is way too small to be perennial, there is no first order stream upgradient of it.
- Applicant is offering to post a \$20,000 Site Restoration bond in case project isn't finished and site needs to be stabilized.
- Slope behind Field #9 is back to a 2:1 slope (no rip-rap) and proposed to be stabilized as before, with the addition of Pagoda Dogwood.
- Phasing plan on Sheet C1.3 submitted showing Construction Phases & sequence.
Greg: With caveat – that is the engineer's proposed phasing plan. The contractor selected may have a different schedule.

Clarification: "Phase I" on the construction schedule is "Phase IA" on the phasing plan.

Greg reviewed and addressed Weston & Sampson's review letter dated Feb. 2 & Feb.16 item by item.

Ms. Sarefield asked if any present were in favor of the application:

Patrick Lawler, 860 South St., North Central Mass. Development Corp. - The project will bolster the North Central Mass economy. It will be an attraction for Fitchburg.

Matt Myers, Johnny Appleseed Trail Assoc. - Tourism & sports-related trips to the region bolster the local economy. Game On project will be good for the local economy.

Ms. Sarefield asked if any present were opposed to the application:

Paul Gagne, 245 Central Ave. – What will be effect on cold water stream?

Tim: Those streams have a higher level of protection and scrutiny for project.

Paul: There is another stream on the other side of Westminster Hill Rd. that is not shown on the soccer field plans that is close to the clearing for Fields 7 & 8.

Roger Diedrich, 1279 Westminster Hill Rd. Is still concerned with effects on off-site wetlands & streams.
G. Roy: the applicant is also concerned w/ effect off-site as well.

Susan Wentworth, 1215 Westminster Hill Rd. – wanted clarification on which stream is being discussed.

Joseph Fournier, 1264 Westminster Hill Rd. Will project flood his cellar?

G. Roy: At that design point close to Mr. Fournier's property the rate of runoff decreases from existing conditions for all storm events.

Ms. Sarefield asked if any questions/comments from Commission members:
Timeline? Peter Sangemano: 12 months from start of construction.

Draft Special Conditions reviewed by Commission.

Mr. Koutonen would like periodic reports and erosion controls checked after each storm on a regular basis.

Greg Roy: They will copy the Commission on all SWPPP reports and documentation

Mr. Cordio: Sees no major concerns with project, may need to leave meeting before a vote is taken.

Motion made & seconded to close public hearing. Vote in favor.

Motion made (Mr. Streb) & seconded (Mr. Karis) to issue Order of Conditions with Draft Special Conditions as discussed & amended. Vote 6-0 in favor.

Motion made & seconded to adjourn. Vote in favor.
Meeting adjourned: 6:50 p.m.

Next regular meeting: 2/28/2017
Minutes approved: 3/28/2017