

**CITY OF FITCHBURG  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2018**

**COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Tracey Sarefield, Chair, Bryan Breau, John Cordio, Mike Donnelly, Harry Karis, John Koutonen, David Streb (7)

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:** Mike O'Hara

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 6:00 at Fitchburg Municipal Airport, 567 Crawford St., Administration Building, Room 106.

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**

Minutes of the May meeting approved. April's still to be finished.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Notice of Intent - Hollis Hills Farm, 885 Fisher Road, 2.7 MW solar array in Buffer Zone

Present were Doug Pope, Pope Solar, David Kelley, Meridian Assocs. and & Jim Lattanzi, Hollis Hills Farm. Hearing opened. Plan was presented. Access to site is via extension of existing gravel drive to the former farm. Solar panels will be mounted on anchor posts driven into the ground – very little land disturbance, no extensive regrading necessary.

Solar array at southerly resource area is the result of the failure of an existing farm tile system which drained subsurface water away from the pastures. Over the years, standing water & wetland vegetation developed. If the tile system still worked, there wouldn't be wetlands. Jim plans on repairing the tiles.

The area of the solar array will continue to be an agricultural use. Clearance of panels will range from 4'6" to 10 feet, and animals will be able to graze under the panels. This will be the first project under the Mass Dept. Agricultural Resources "Smart Solar" program.

There will be a PILOT agreement with the City. Doug Pope will be managing the project and will hire a construction manager. Commission stressed the importance of having the contractors and equipment operators aware of the approved plan and conditions and limit of work.

Tim: Why 20-foot wide access road needed? (too wide). Fire Prevention says 20-feet is what NFPA requires. Meridian will double-check w/ Fire to see if narrower access could be allowed.

Is the farm pond still planned: Yes, Jim still intends to install one at the southerly end of the property, not enough funds to do at this time.

Commission agreed to hold site walk on Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup> 5:00 p.m. It will be posted as a meeting in case there's a quorum. Park in driveway of 885 Fisher Rd.

Request for Determination of Applicability - Capodagli, 938 Main St., work in Riverfront Area

Peter & Ann Capodagli presented plan to clean up area at the rear of the former gas station at the Upper Common, which they recently purchased. They propose to take out one tree that is overhanging the adjacent building. They would also like to regrade & level off the rear of the lot to be used as a gravel parking area.

Motion made & seconded to issue Negative Determination, with condition: Install silt fence at limit of grading prior to starting work. Vote in favor.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

FIT runway expansion in Floodplain & Riverfront, Gale Assocs.

June 4<sup>th</sup> site visit recapped by Tim. Reflagging w/ flag #s needed, there was discussion about possibly shifting proposed new runway slightly to avoid impact on the adjacent Nashua R., but the Veg. Mgmt. plan approved by the FAA took into account the relocated runway. They expect to file NOI for lengthening Runway 14-32 and & elimination of Runway 2-20 in Aug. or Sept.

McTaggart's Pond Dam

DPW still waiting on completion of alternatives analysis on cost of dam repair vs. dam removal.

Q: Of the \$375K from the State for dam repair/removal how much is being spent on engineering?

Access to Rollstone Hill trails via Quarry Lane?

Noting new on this item.

Project updates:

- Game On - Still receiving SWPPP reports after rain events, still some blasting and extensive rock crushing, no foundation in as yet.
- Rain Barrel program, etc. - Rain barrel distribution Sat. June 9<sup>th</sup> was a success, 100 barrels given out. The cost of subsidizing the barrel purchase, which was agreed to be split between the Stormwater, Wastewater & Conservation Commission's accounts, was \$1,351 each. They plan to hold the event again next year, but without subsidizing the cost of the barrels.

Certificates of Compliance

None.

Motion made & seconded to adjourn. Vote in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 7:20 p.m.

Next meeting: 7/9/18 (site walk - 885 Fisher Rd. Solar)

Next regular meeting: 8/28/18

Minutes approved: 7/31/18