

Whately Conservation Commission
Wednesday, June 16, 2021
In person (4 Sandy Lane, Whately) and via Zoom

Commissioners present: Andrew Ostrowski, Ann Barker, George Owens, Montserrat Archbald, and Scott Jackson (chair)

Commissioners absent:

Others present: Tom Litwin (Planning Board), Todd Cellura (Sovereign Builders) and Christopher Karney (R. Levesque Associates, Inc.)

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

1. Public Hearing for a Notice of Intent submitted by Sovereign Builders, Inc., to construct a self-storage facility on State Road, across from Tom's Hot Dog stand. The public hearing was reconvened at 7:00 pm. Christopher Karney presented a revised set of plans that included a narrower access road and changes to storm water management on the site. Q&A and discussion followed. Discussion focused on how utilities would get across the stream and wetlands, and whether storm water from the access road could be managed via "country drainage" rather than by an infiltration basin located within the Riverfront Area. The Commission indicated that the design approach was generally acceptable, but that it would like to see country drainage instead of the infiltration basin. It was pointed out that the applicant would also need to submit a written alternatives analysis demonstrating that there were no practicable alternatives to working in the Riverfront Area on that site, including the option of constructing the project on another site in Whately. With permission from the applicant, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to continue the hearing until July 21, 2021 at 7:00 pm.
2. Request for a Certificate of Compliance submitted by Long Plain Solar, LLC. Commission Chair Jackson reported on a site visit he conducted with Tony Wonseski (SVE). Jackson explained that the mitigation that was done was not what the Commission had expected, and that the Commission wanted to see storm water diverted across the access road at a point much further north than where it is now. It was decided between Wonseski and Jackson that we would wait and see how the new grading of the access road handles future heavy rain events. In the meantime, Tony would see if we could shoot some grades to see how feasible it would be to divert the water farther up the road to the north. No action was taken by the Commission.
3. Letter of Support for the updated Whately Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Commission discussed the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan for Whately, after which, it voted unanimously (5-0) to send a letter of support to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for inclusion in the submission to the MA Division of Conservation Services.
4. The Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to accept the minutes from the May 19th meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Jackson