

**Town of Auburn
Conservation Commission
June 7, 2022**

Members present: Jeff Porter-Chairman. Richard Burnham, Member. Stephanie Hanson, Alternate Member. Minutes recorded by Denise Royce.

Absent: Peg Donovan, Vice Chair. Diana Heaton & Ed Fehrenbach, Member. & Mark Ampuja, Alternate Members.

Also Present: George Chadwick & Doug MacGuire.

Mr. Porter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced the Board members to everyone present tonight. Mr. Porter moved on to the discussion with Mr. MacGuire regarding Maine Drilling & Blasting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

**Doug MacGuire
Maine Drilling & Blasting
Rattlesnake Hill, LLC
88 Gold Ledge Avenue, Tax Map 1, Lots 5, 18-3 & 18-4
Zoned Industrial
Discuss Wetlands on Site Plan**

Mr. MacGuire began presenting on behalf of Maine Drilling & Blasting and passed out copies of the plan showing the location of the proposed wetland crossing. At this time, the Board members reviewed the plan. Mr. MacGuire explained that one of the questions that was asked was if they would need a culvert for the crossing. Mr. MacGuire went into more detail by explaining the flow between Lot 5 and Lot 17-4 which showed a clear high break point and then there was significant uplands heading northwest. Mr. MacGuire went into discussing that he did include in the packet what they were proposing for erosion control of which they would be putting in a double barrier protection area along that wall which was the low side. Mr. MacGuire added that they are proposing a silt sock backed up with a silt fence for erosion control which will keep everything out of the delineated wetland buffer along that area. Mr. MacGuire stated that they were very close to grade at the crossing point with minimal slope which was very minor being approximately 2 feet to 4 feet, but they are proposing erosion control matting just to stabilize it as quickly as possible. This access is proposed to be a gravel access, not paved and 20-foot wide which is very similar to what they proposed to them in their last meeting. Mr. MacGuire

believed that was it and looked for the Board to answer any questions that they may have. Mr. Porter commented that Mr. MacGuire did a fantastic job and appreciated what he has done. Mr. Porter asked Mr. MacGuire if he expected any movement to go over the silt fence because there were sensitive areas where box turtles would be. Mr. MacGuire stated that he intended it to be a temporary barrier just to get things through and believed there was certainly a potential for that to occur. A brief discussion ensued with possibly making breaks within the silt fencing. Ms. Hanson asked if they could overlap it and offset the silt fencing to allow the turtles to pass through in a section. Mr. MacGuire thought that was a good idea and that they could definitely do that. Ms. Hanson also added that she would recommend that they take it down as soon as you're able to take it down. Mr. MacGuire agreed.

With that said, Mr. Porter stated that he would look to the Board members for support with Ms. Hanson suggestion for offsetting the silt fence.

Mr. Burnham made a motion to support the plan for Maine Drilling & Blasting with Ms. Hanson's suggestion for offsetting the silt fence. Ms. Hanson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. MacGuire thanked the Board for their time and support and the discussion ended.

At this time, Mr. Porter moved on to Mr. Chadwick regarding 266 Rockingham Road.

**George Chadwick
On Behalf of 22 Dartmouth Drive, LLC
266 Rockingham Road, Tax Map 25, Lot 44
Zoned Industrial
Discuss Wetland Buffer for Major Site Plan
Review (Contractor Bays)**

Mr. Chadwick began by saying that he was before the Board tonight partially as a follow up to the Planning Board meeting and the last Conservation Commission meeting to give the Board an updated. Secondly, Mr. Chadwick went on to say that he had a wetland application with him tonight to expedite the permit. If the Board so chooses to sign the wetland application tonight that's great but if not, he will take it back and let it go before its normal process.

Mr. Chadwick went on to present to the Conservation Commission by saying that, this was the fourth application as he has worked on this application since 2016. Mr. Chadwick started by saying that, back at the Planning Board he presented the existing conditions as it was without the additional wetlands out there. Mr. Chadwick pointed out the two (2) new little wetland pockets that have occurred since the cutting of the trees. Mr. Chadwick also pointed out the new tree line from the previous tree line prior to tree cutting. Mr. Chadwick also mentioned that he has reduced the amount of wetland impact from what was previously proposed. Mr. Chadwick passed out copies of the wetland permit to each Board member for their review. Mr. Chadwick explained how he reduced the wetland impact from 4,812 square feet down to 1,801 square feet by regrading that area and adjusting the drainage. Mr. Chadwick added that he has prepared the wetland permit application of which he would like to submit to the town and to the state which does meet their avoidance and minimization criteria. He has spoken with the State, and they feel that they have done what they can in this situation.

At this time, Mr. Chadwick wanted to discuss the application with the Board members and see if they had any comments or concerns and to see if he could address them. Mr. Chadwick pointed out that one of the things since the last time the Planning Board did approve the restoration plan which shows a substantial number of trees, shrubs and grasses. Ms. Hanson asked what the square footage of the restoration versus the impact. Mr. Chadwick believed the restoration was 90,000 square feet and the impact was 1,801 square feet. A brief discussion ensued with regard to impact. Ms. Hanson asked if it has been planted. Mr. Chadwick stated that it would be planted as part of the project. Mr. Porter asked about the language regarding hazardous material. Mr. Chadwick stated that he did not have that as he was concentrating on the wetland application. Mr. Chadwick did state that it would be placed on the final plan as discussed at the Planning Board. Mr. Porter informed the Board that it was discussed at the Planning Board hearing.

Mr. Burnham talked about the new wetlands and asked if it was caused by the cutting of the trees over the years. Mr. Chadwick said yes because you don't have the vegetation of the trees soaking up the moisture as you did before the trees were cut. Mr. Porter believed it was poorly drained soils as well. Mr. Chadwick pointed out that, if this wetland permit is not granted that he believed this project would go away.

Mr. Porter asked Ms. Hanson for comment. Ms. Hanson asked about the timeframe for the restoration. Mr. Chadwick indicated that he did not want to plant all the new trees and have someone accidentally run over them even though they would have silt fence and barriers around it. The way Mr. Chadwick saw the project happening was to have all the earth work and then once they were away from the area that they would go in and plant the restoration plan. Mr. Chadwick also pointed out that the restoration was also being

handled by the landowner. Mr. Hanson commented that, her only issue is that she would want to see the restoration done and signed off on prior to the start of construction. Mr. Porter asked if he could work with the Board on this. Mr. Chadwick said yes, they could work something out. Ms. Hanson asked if there was something that showed the area that needed to survive. Mr. Burnham asked what that would fall under and if it would fall under Mrs. Rouleau-Cote. A discussion ensued with regard to survival of plantings proposed for the restoration plan. Ms. Hanson believed it would take about two (2) years for these plantings to establish. Mr. Porter indicated that they would take this information back to the Planning Board and to Mrs. Rouleau-Cote for the pre-construction meeting.

Mr. Porter stated that they have an expedited wetland application before them and asked the Board if they were okay with him signing the wetland application. Mr. Burnham asked if they could approve the signing of the wetland application based upon the discussions here tonight. Mr. Porter believed that with the regard to the application that they either accept it or deny it as it is a time thing but what they could do is use the meeting minutes for the pre-construction meeting and say this is what they would like to see done and can we do that. Mr. Porter again pointed out that the Board is an advisory board.

Ms. Hanson wanted to put it out there that, in the future that a restoration has to be done before issuing a permit for more wetland destruction. In this case, Mr. Chadwick has gone back and cut in half the wetland impact and did not know what that ratio was to uplands as to wetland impact. Mr. Chadwick indicated that it was buffer impact. Ms. Hanson was purely thinking about how to deal with these cases moving forward which was the reason for why she was saying this. Ms. Hanson asked Mr. Chadwick if he could get those numbers to them regarding the ratios for the restoration versus the buffer and the wetland. Mr. Chadwick asked if he got those numbers to the Board did, he have to attend another meeting or could he just give them to Ms. Royce. Mr. Porter indicated that he could just get them to Ms. Royce who could distribute them to the Board members. With that said, Ms. Hanson indicated that she would make a motion.

Ms. Hanson motioned to support the Chairman to sign the expedited wetland permit application. Seconded by Mr. Burnham. A vote was taken, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chadwick had Mr. Porter sign all the copies and then he would get them to the Town Clerk and then they would receive their copy. At this time, Mr. Porter signed the expedited wetland permit application. Mr. Chadwick thanked the Board for their time and the discussion ended.

Mr. Porter moved on to acceptance of the minutes for May 3, 2022.

MINUTES

Mr. Burnham moved to approve the minutes of May 3, 2022 as written. Ms. Hanson seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Porter asked if there was any further business to discuss. None was noted. With that said, Mr. Porter thanked the Board members that attended tonight and asked for a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURN

Mr. Burnham moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Heaton seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 7:42pm.

The Conservation Commission will not be meeting during the Month of July. The next Conservation Commission meeting is currently scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 47 Chester Road unless otherwise noted.