

Definitive Subdivision Decision – 14-03
Roosevelt Drive
May 20, 2014



Planning Board

TOWN OF ACTON
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DECISION

14-03

Roosevelt Drive

Definitive Subdivision (Residential Compound)

May 20, 2014

APPROVED (with Conditions)

Decision of the Acton Planning Board (hereinafter the Board) on the application of Guido and Helene Gaglino of 17 Washington Drive Acton, MA 01720 (hereinafter the Applicant) for property located at 17 Washington Drive Acton, MA, owned by Guido and Helene Gaglino. The property is shown on the Acton Town Atlas map E-3, as parcels 88 and 88-1 (hereinafter the Site).

This Decision is in response to an Application for Approval of a Definitive Plan entitled "Residential Compound Roosevelt Drive Acton, MA", filed with the Acton Planning Department on March 18, 2014, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 81-K through 81-GG, and the Acton Subdivision Rules and Regulations (hereinafter the Rules).

The hearing was held on May 6, 2014. Bruce Ringwall of Goldsmith, Prest & Ringwall, Inc. presented the Plan on the Applicant's behalf. Board members Mr. Jeff Clymer (Chair), Mr. Roland Bourdon, Mr. Michael Dube (Clerk), Mr. Derrick Chin, Mr. Rob Bukowski and Mr. Ray Yacouby were present throughout the proceedings of the hearing. The minutes of the hearing and submissions on which this Decision is based upon may be viewed in the Planning Department or the Town Clerk's office at the Acton Town Hall.

1 EXHIBITS

Submitted for the Board's deliberation were the following exhibits:

- 1.1 A plan entitled "Residential Compound – Roosevelt Drive Acton, MA 01720", consisting of 9 sheets, dated March 2014 (Sheet C2, Plan of Lots, dated 03/17/14), by Goldsmith, Prest & Ringwall, Inc. 39 Main Street, Suite 301, Ayer, MA 01432.
- 1.2 A plan entitled Residential Compound Proof Plan Loop Cul-De-Sac, dated March 2014.
- 1.3 Supplemental items and documentation required by the Rules consisting of:
 - A fully executed Application for Approval of a Definitive Plan, form DP, received 03/18/14;
 - Filing fee;
 - A completed Development Impact Report, form DIR;
 - Designer's Certificate;
 - Certified abutters list;
 - A list of requested waivers;
 - A letter authorizing Town to complete driveway;
 - Copy of the deed;
 - List of mortgage holders;
 - Stormwater Management Report, including pre- and post-development drainage maps;
 - Stormwater Operation and Maintenance Manual;
 - Proposed private way maintenance agreement and covenant;
 - Aerial Overlay Exhibit, received 05/06/14;
 - Fire Truck Egress Sketch for SU-50, received 05/06/14.
- 1.4 Interdepartmental communication received from:
 - Acton Engineering Department, dated 03/21/14;
 - Acton Department of Public Health, dated 03/25/14;
 - Acton Building Department, dated 03/27/14;
 - Acton Planning Department, dated 04/18/14;
 - Acton Fire Chief, dated 05/06/14.
- 1.5 Correspondence received from abutters:
 - Email from Susan Grossman, dated 04/11/14;
 - Email from Dermot O'Grady, dated 04/30/14;
 - Email from William Garnett, dated 05/04/14;
 - Email from Gregory Medlin, dated 05/04/14;
 - "Petition to Deny the Application for Approval of a Definitive Plan for Residential Compound Roosevelt Drive, Acton MA dated March 2014", received 05/06/14.

Exhibits 1.1 through 1.3 are referred to herein as the Plan.

2 FINDINGS and CONCLUSIONS

Based upon its review of the exhibits and the record of the proceedings the Board finds and concludes that:

- 2.1 The proposed subdivision is located within the Residence 2 (R-2) zoning district, the Groundwater Protection District Zone 4.

- 2.2 The Plan shows the division of approximately 2.71 acres into three lots. The land is currently developed with an existing single family dwelling and a paved driveway.
- 2.3 The plan shows the existing dwelling to be located on Lot 1A, and construction of two new single-family residential dwellings.
- 2.4 The proposed uses are allowed on the Site in accordance with the Acton Zoning Bylaw.
- 2.5 The proposed lots as shown on the Plan comply with the area and frontage requirements of the Bylaw.
- 2.6 The Plan shows a +/- 427 foot long subdivision street, Roosevelt Drive, which intersects with Monroe Drive. The proposed pavement width is 12 feet within a layout not less than 25 feet wide.
- 2.7 The Plan show 3 foot shoulders prepared with 6 inches of topsoil with gravel base extending 2 feet from the edge of pavement. The Common Drive design standards that guide the design of Residential Compounds call for 3 foot shoulders with gravel base under the full width of the shoulders and only 3-4 inches of topsoil. This better supports vehicles off the pavement when needed.
- 2.8 The turn-around area meets the common driveway design standards for SU-30 vehicles. The fire department has expressed concerns about accessibility for a ladder truck.
- 2.9 Section 9.6 of the Subdivision Rules require the applicant to provide sidewalks on one side of the traveled street within the proposed subdivision and along the portion of any existing public street upon which the subdivision has frontage.
- 2.10 In lieu of constructing sidewalks in accordance with Section 9.6 of the Rules, the Applicant has proposed to construct a sidewalk along the north easterly side of Musket Drive from Revolutionary Road to the approximate location of the southerly side of the entrance to the pool/club house at 21 Musket Drive. This offer is acceptable. The sidewalk in the proposed location will better serve the neighborhood and Town.
- 2.11 With only two single-family homes, traffic on the proposed street will be light. A Residential Compound more or less as proposed is appropriate for the Site.
- 2.12 The design of the proposed subdivision street is intended for approval under Section 10 of the Rules - Optional Residential Compound, which implies waivers from Section 8 and 9 of the Rules. The subdivision is eligible for consideration as a Residential Compound. The Applicant has demonstrated with a "proof plan" that the subdivision street could be built with reasonable and appropriate waivers under the otherwise applicable requirements of the Rules. A Residential Compound is less intrusive to the neighborhood, preserves more of the natural environment of the Site, and helps preserve the present character of the neighborhood. The Plan, as modified herein, accomplishes these purposes of the Rules' Residential Compounds option.
- 2.13 Ways in Residential Compound subdivisions can be built to lesser design and construction standards than other streets in Acton. They are intended to remain private ways. This requires a legal framework for the maintenance and ownership of the private way. Furthermore, the Board needs assurances that the Town will not be asked to plow, maintain, or accept the private way in the future.
- 2.14 By reference to the common drive standards of the Bylaw, the Rules require that "adequate drainage" shall be provided. Due to the low-intensity use and vehicle traffic, Low Impact Development (LID) options have been proposed for purposes of handling storm water runoff. Generally, LID design seeks to avoid or minimize storm water

discharge from the site, to disperse groundwater recharge locations throughout the site rather than concentrate recharge in one or few areas, and to handle storm water primarily with above-ground facilities and structures such as swales, recharge beds, or porous pavers.

- 2.15 The Board solicited comments from various Town departments. They are listed in Exhibit 1.4 above. The Board considered all comments in its deliberations and made them available to the Applicant. They are restated herein as required plan modifications or conditions as deemed appropriate by the Board.
- 2.16 During the hearing abutters raised numerous concerns and questions. The applicant is hereby encourage to lay out the building sites on the lots in a manner that is most sensitive and respectful of these concerns; specifically (1) maximize the westerly and southerly setbacks on Lot 2A, (2) keep the clearing of trees to the necessary minimum, (3) relocate and design the house on lot 3A to properly align with a front side to Washington Drive, (4) be careful and considerate with blasting; if blasting should become necessary use multiple small charges rather than few more powerful charges; and comply with the rules and instructions for blasting as set forth by the Acton Fire Department, and (5) preserve, or remove and rebuild/relocate, existing stone walls.

3 BOARD ACTION

Therefore, subject to and with the benefit of the following waivers, conditions, plan modifications, and limitations, the Board voted to APPROVE the definitive subdivision.

3.1 WAIVERS

- 3.1.1 The Applicant has requested waivers from Section 8 (Design Standards) and Section 9 (Improvements) of the Rules to allow the construction of the street as shown on the Plan.
- 3.1.2 The waivers are GRANTED pursuant to Section 10 of the Rules (Residential Compounds) and subject to any required Plan modifications and conditions stated herein.
- 3.1.3 Specifically the Applicant has also requested a waiver from the sidewalk requirements of the Rules. The waiver is GRANTED subject to further conditions as stated below.
- 3.1.4 The application also requests or contemplates waiver requests for the Proof Plan under Section 11.1: (1) sideline radius at the intersection with Monroe Drive (SRR 8.1.10 & 8.1.11); the required pavement radius would not be affected; (2) no tangent between reverse curves (SRR 8. – Table I); and (3) Overall length of residential single access street measured from Jackson Drive +/-600 feet (SRR 8.1.17). In the context of the proposed two-lot subdivision granting these waivers is not inconsistent with public safety interests.

3.2 PLAN MODIFICATIONS

The Plan shall be revised prior to its endorsement to include the following additional, corrected, or modified information. Except where otherwise provided, all such information shall be subject to the approval of the Board or its designee. Where approvals are required from persons or agencies other than the Board, the Applicant shall be responsible for providing evidence of such approvals to the Board or its designee.

- 3.2.1 On the record plan sheet:
- Modify the plans to show monumentation at all points of curvature and tangency using magnetized masonry nails in the field course of pavement.
- 3.2.2 On the title sheet under "General Notes":
- Correct General Note # 20 to state, no paving shall take place after November 15th;
 - Add a note that no permanent monument shall be installed until all construction is completed.
- 3.2.3 On the sheet C6.1:
- Modify the Roadway Typical Cross Section so that the 3 foot shoulders are constructed with gravel base under the full width of the shoulders.
- 3.2.4 On the sheet C6.2:
- Add two temporary benchmarks that won't be disturbed during construction.
- 3.2.5 On all plan sheets:
- Modify the plans by widening and lengthening the paved surface of the Turnaround Area sufficiently to accommodate an SU-50 vehicle as evident from using a turning template and generally as shown on the sketch plan listed in the last bullet of Exhibit 1.3 above, additional shoulders are not necessary; and adjust the drainage system if necessary to accommodate the additional impervious surface.
 - Delete the label and any reference to "Lot X".
- 3.2.6 Amend the private way maintenance agreement and covenant, by adding a restriction that the owners of lots 1A and 2A in Roosevelt Drive shall not petition the Town to accept or maintain the private street, drainage, provide snow and ice removal services of any other maintenance of Roosevelt Drive.
- 3.2.7 Unless directed otherwise herein, the definitive plan shall be modified to comply with all requirements of the Rules, and shall address all departmental comments received by the Board in a manner that resolves to the Board's satisfaction any concerns raised therein.

3.3 CONDITIONS

The following conditions shall be binding upon the Applicant and its successors and assigns. Failure to adhere to the following conditions shall be reason to rescind this subdivision approval pursuant to MGL Ch.41, S.81-W. The Town of Acton may elect to enforce compliance with this Decision using any and all powers available to it under the law.

- 3.3.1 In lieu of constructing a sidewalk on Roosevelt Drive and along the subdivision frontage of Washington Drive and Monroe Drive, the Applicant shall construct a sidewalk along the north easterly side of Musket Drive from Revolutionary Road to the approximate location of the southerly side of the entrance to the pool/club house at 21 Musket Drive as shown on the Plan.
- 3.3.2 Seek to obtain from the abutter (Petersen) a sight easement along Monroe Drive towards Jackson Drive sufficient to secure a 200-foot sight distance from the proposed intersection. Before the issuance of any building permit on the Site: If granted, show evidence of such grant and recording of the easement; if not granted show evidence the attempt to obtain such easement and/or of the refusal or decline by the abutter.

- 3.3.3 Roosevelt Drive shall remain a private way. It shall not be accepted as a public way. The Applicant and the owners of Lots 1A and 2A shall not petition the Town to accept it as a public way.
- 3.3.4 Roosevelt Drive in its entirety shall be maintained by the owners of Lots 1A and 2A in accordance with the common driveway easement and covenants. This shall include the removal of snow and ice. The Applicant and the owners of Lots 1A and 2A shall not petition the Town to provide snow and ice removal services in Roosevelt Drive or to provide any other maintenance and upkeep of Roosevelt Drive.
- 3.3.5 Roosevelt Drive shall not serve more than two (2) residential lots. There shall be no further division of the tract or Lots contained therein and development of the land is permitted only in accordance with the single-family residential land uses indicated thereon, including all allowed accessory uses.
- 3.3.6 The Applicant shall be diligent in complying with the erosion and sediment control plan. The Applicant shall not cause or permit the runoff of water or erosion that result in the flooding or siltation of any street, way or drainage facility owned or maintained by the Town. If such runoff or erosion occurs, the Board may order the immediate cessation of any excavation, construction and building activities until the conditions that caused the runoff or erosion have been corrected.
- 3.3.7 The Applicant shall be diligent in designing the stormwater management system to be consistent with Massachusetts Stormwater Regulations.
- 3.3.8 All work on the Site shall be performed in compliance with the requirements of the Acton Board of Health.
- 3.3.9 As required under Massachusetts General Laws, Ch. 60, S. 23, the Plan approved hereunder shall not be recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds or the Land Court unless it is accompanied by a municipal lien certificate, indicating that all taxes, assessments, and charges then assessed against the land shown on the Plan have been paid in full. If not paid at the time of endorsement of the Plan, the Board will add a Plan note to remind the Registry of Deeds or the Land Court of this legal requirement.
- 3.3.10 Prior to endorsement of the Plan, the Applicant shall provide the Board with a performance guarantee in accordance with Section 6 of the Rules.
- 3.3.11 No work on the Site shall begin prior to the endorsement and recording of the Plan.
- 3.3.12 All work on the Site shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules, except as waived, and the terms of this approval, and shall conform with and be limited to the improvements shown on the endorsed Plan.
- 3.3.13 The installation of water service lines shall be made in compliance with requirements of the Acton Water Supply District.
- 3.3.14 Prior to the issuance of a building permit on the Site the following documents shall be recorded at the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds or the Land Court:
- This Decision;
 - The endorsed Record Plan;
 - The Restrictive Covenant unless another performance guarantee is provided;
 - The Common Drive Easement and Covenants as required herein;
 - The "Stormwater Operation and Maintenance Manual".

3.3.15 Submit an as-built plan to the Acton Engineering Department upon the completion of all construction approved hereunder.

3.4 LIMITATIONS

The authority granted to the Applicant under this approval is limited as follows:

- 3.4.1 The foregoing required modifications and conditions have been stated for the purpose of emphasizing their importance, but are not intended to be all inclusive or to negate the remainder of the Rules and other applicable laws and regulations.
- 3.4.2 This subdivision approval applies only to the Site identified in this Decision and to the activity as shown on the Plan.
- 3.4.3 Other approvals or permits required by law and other governmental boards, agencies or bodies having jurisdiction shall not be assumed or implied by this Decision.
- 3.4.4 This subdivision approval shall expire if not endorsed on the Plan within one year from the date that this Decision has been filed with the Town Clerk. It shall also expire, if street construction and installation of services are not completed within 8 years from the date that this Decision has been filed with the Town Clerk. A request to extend said time limits must be made in writing to the Board at least 30 days prior to said expiration date. The Board herewith reserves its rights and powers to grant or deny such extension, to issue any appropriate changes to this Decision and to require any appropriate modifications of the Plan.
- 3.4.5 The Board hereby reserves its right and power to modify or amend the Plan and the terms and conditions of this Decision with or without a public hearing upon the request of the Applicant, his designees or assigns, or upon its own motion.

4 APPEALS

Appeals, if any, shall be made pursuant to M.G.L. ch. 41, s. 81-BB and shall be filed within 20 days after the date of filing this Decision with the Town Clerk.

5 CERTIFICATE OF ACTION

This document stating the Decision of the Board shall serve as the Certificate of the Board's Action to be filed with the Town Clerk pursuant to MGL, Ch. 41, S. 81-U.

Roland Bartl, AICP, Planning Director
for the Town of Acton Planning Board

This is to certify that the 20-day appeal period on this Decision has passed and there have been no appeals made to this office.

Eva Szkaradek, Town Clerk

Copies
furnished:
Applicant -
certified mail #
Town Clerk
Fire Chief
Owner

Building Commissioner
Engineering Administrator
Natural Resource Director
Police Chief
Historical Commission

Health Director
Municipal Properties Director
Town Manager
Acton Water District
Assistant Assessor