

ACTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes
January 7, 2015
7:15 PM
TOWN HALL - 472 MAIN STREET
ROOM 204

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Andrew Magee, acting Chair, William Froberg, Tom Arnold, Amy Green, Jim Colman, Paula Goodwin

NATURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR & RECORDING SECRETARY: Tom Tidman

VISITORS: Pam Curan, Renee Soluk, Teja Pallikonda, Haig Yeterjan

7:15 **Notice of Intent** – 2 Taylor Road, Acton Arboretum

Hearing continued from 11/19/2014.

Part 1. Rain Garden and Parking Lot:

Tom Tidman presented the draft planting plan for the rain garden and surrounding swale, and the plant list. Mr. Tidman reviewed the DEP list of plants that have some value in removing contaminants and showed the working plan. The proposed raingarden is of the same design as the one at NARA Park. A one-way entry slope will allow run-off from the parking lot to enter the swale and farm ditch, and allow infiltration to occur on the down slope from the exit road.

Soft tissue plants will be used in the rain garden basin. Several species of sedge will be planted that will colonize, and several types of clover will be located on the slopes which can be mowed for maintenance. Typical wetland species were chosen, for the area that is expected to remain wet. The west end of the bed will be planted with woody plants that include elderberry, willows like pussy willows along the ditch, and redbuds at the end of the garden.

Mr. Froberg asked if the plants selected were readily available for purchase and Mr. Tidman responded that they were. Mr. Colman asked if the runoff from the south side of the parking lot gets less treatment, as it enters the basin near the basin outlet on the downstream side. There is not much area between that side of the rain garden and the farm ditch.

Ms. Green asked if this particular garden was oversized and Mr. Tidman said it was. She then asked about the seed mix and the mulch in the bottom of the bio-retention basin. Planted clover will be planted on the slopes of the garden. There are cross sectional drawings in the storm water plan.

Questions were opened to floor:

Ms. Beauregard, an abutter, asked about emergency vehicles entering the parking area and was told that they could enter from either end. Mr. Tidman reviewed the planting plan for the parking lot screening and told them that he had already planted three northern white cedars and there were more plantings to come. He explained that sheet flow from the parking area is currently untreated and the intention is to treat it going forward. Ms. Green asked how the ditch was to be constructed. Mr. Colman pointed out that rain gardens allow suspended solids to settle out. Mr. Magee explained that the WPA requires stormwater runoff to be treated to improve water quality and rain gardens are approved treatment modalities. He also explained

that the State requires a certain square footage of rain garden corresponding to the size of the parking area. Ms. Green stated that the DEP requires 80 percent TSS removal as BMP.

Part II: Bog Boardwalk

The Commissioners asked about the elevation difference from the new, alternate sidewalk site. They also asked where the drain pipe would be placed and were told it would be under the sidewalk. Mr. Tidman recommended paving rather than using pressure treated timbers because the timbers would be more destructive to the wetlands. He cited the sidewalk on Central Street as an example and noted it was barely noticeable. The grade is to be less than 5 percent, which is ADA compliant. While *paving* is not required, it must be firmly compacted material and ADA compliant. A question was asked about a boardwalk being built instead of paving and it was pointed out that impact on the wetlands would be greater, since boardwalks require maintenance and repair (e.g. when trees fall), versus a sidewalk. Mr. Colman felt a sidewalk would be less intrusive than 6 inch by 6 inch posts. Ms. Green also agreed that the overall impact on the buffer zone is less with pavement.

Mr. Magee asked that the stormwater management report for the parking lot rain garden be submitted to the Commission as the hearing could not be closed without reviewing it. The hearing was continued to January 21 so the report could be reviewed by the Commission.

7:20 **Notice of Intent** 12 Summer Street

Request for continuance received prior to meeting. Hearing continued to February 4 at 7:30.

MINUTES:

December 3, 2014, Reviewed by AM, AG

Ms. Green moved to accept the minutes of December 3rd, Mr. Colman seconded, unanimous vote.

December 17, 2014, Reviewed by AG

Ms. Green moved to accept the minutes of December 17th, Mr. Colman seconded, unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned: 8:40 PM



Terry Matland
Chairperson

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