

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES
March 16, 2011
7:30 P.M.
Auditorium, Town Hall

Chairman Hillman called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M

Commission Members Present: Peter Hillman, Michael Tone, Craig Flaherty, Ed Sweeney, Wynne Shapiro, Rick Rohr, and Pete Kenyon

Staff Present: Jacobson

Court Reporter: Syat

Recorded by Channel 79

Mr. Hillman called the first agenda item:

Hindley School Going Green, Presentation by students about conservation measures at their school

Mr. Hillman described the duties and procedures of the Environmental Protection Commission acting as the Wetland Agency, Conservation Commission, and Flood & Erosion Control Board.

Ms. Julia DiMatteo, Hindley School Teacher, introduced the fifth grade Spiriteers to make presentations about recycling.

Kathleen Tropsa discussed the importance of recycling efforts in the U.S.

Spenser Hillman described the use of plastic water bottles in the U.S. and the importance of recycling them.

Patrick Burke described the recycling water fountains and water conservation efforts in the school.

Isabel Montanaro spoke about the importance of natural resource conservation.

Charlie Baylis discussed paper recycling in the U.S.

Kerry Blatney described the student recycling program at Hindley School.

Jennifer Montanaro of the Hindley School PTO discussed the parent volunteers and teacher's involvement in the recycling program and the importance of starting to teach children about recycling at an early age.

Mr. Hillman made a motion to applaud the efforts of the staff, students and parent volunteers and wish them luck and encourage their efforts. The Commission will send a resolution and commendation to Ms. Westcott, Superintendent Falcone, and the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Tone seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hillman called the next agenda item:

Discussion, public input, and possible Commission endorsement re: Darien Actions to Reduce Use of Plastic Bags, Presentation by Nina Miller

Nina Miller and Deepika Saksena presented discussed their program to reduce the use of plastic bags in stores. They said the “Choose to Reuse” group is starting their campaign with education regarding the negative impact of plastic bags on the environment and by having conversations with Town groups. They plan to propose an ordinance banning the bags to the Board of Selectman in April.

Mr. Hillman made a motion to commend the group of five and led support to their efforts with the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Kenyon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hillman called the next agenda item:

EPC-05-2011, Stacie Allen, 20 Driftway Lane, proposing terrace construction in an upland review area.

Jeff McDougal, William Seymour Associates, represented the applicant. He said they are proposing a concrete patio. The corner of the patio will be designed to preserve the large Oak tree.

Ms. Shapiro asked the closest distance to the pond from the patio. Mr. McDougal said 30 feet from the lowest step. She asked if the wide width of the steps is necessary. Mr. McDougal said they could probably scale back the width of the steps to 8 feet.

Mr. Flaherty asked about the construction of the patio. Mr. McDougal said it would be poured concrete. Mr. Flaherty asked them to look at more pervious options for the patio surface and additional plantings to receive the runoff.

Mr. Tone said the patio would create sheet flow to a fairly steep slope.

John Martucci, P.E. said they were proposing plantings and ground cover surrounding the patio.

Mr. Rohr said he was concerned with how digging for the patio slab could affect the tree roots. He suggested an arborist to evaluate the impact on the tree.

Mr. Hillman said this is a challenged lot and is sensitive to any further impervious surfaces. Mr. Kenyon seconded that sentiment.

The Commission requested Mr. McDougal consult with his client and provide additional information regarding reducing the steps, consider a more pervious patio surface, additional plantings, and an evaluation of impacts to the Oak tree.

Mr. Hillman called the public hearing to order:

EPC-49-2010, Charlie Douglas, 0 Woods End Road (Northeast corner of Woods End Road and Sylvan Road), proposing new house construction within an upland review area.

Doug DiVesta, P.E. represented the applicant.

Mr. Hillman said the summary of plan changes provided by Mr. DiVesta answered his questions.

Mr. Flaherty said he had listened to the tapes of the meeting and was satisfied with the plans.

Mr. Rohr asked about the level of confidence expressed by Mr. DiVesta that the Ridder property would receive less water as a result of the plan. Mr. DiVesta said he was strongly confident that there would be not impact on the Ridder property. Mr. Rohr asked about the type of clay to be used. Mr. DiVesta said betonite or other suitable material would be chosen.

Pam Ridder, Woods End Road, said asked about the depth of the proposed basement. Mr. DiVesta said it would be 3-4 feet deep from the existing grade. She asked if there would be any change in the flow from the wetland to the east of the house. Mr. DiVesta said there would be no change in the easterly wetland flow pattern.

Mr. Flaherty made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Kenyon seconded the motion and it passed 6-0. Mr. Rohr abstained.

The Commission proceeded to deliberate on the application.

Mr. Hillman said the project has come a long way from the original application. The house was scaled back and is more in keeping with the neighborhood. The lot is buildable. He would favor approval with conditions including the applicant will be required to notify the neighbors by certified mail when construction will begin.

Mr. Tone had concerns about the pool which the applicant may not build. The Commission discussed the pool and the Commission's jurisdiction. Mr. Jacobson said the drainage design is sized to accommodate the pool. The pool is not within the upland review area and may be built at in the future after the house is completed without EPC review.

Ms. Shapiro was concerned with the basement. Mr. Rohr said the test holes showed water at five feet and the basement floor is above that. Any sump discharge will go to the detention system.

Mr. Sweeney was concerned that the pool would displace groundwater and has the potential to alter groundwater. Mr. Flaherty said the pool would have an instantaneous displacement but would reach a static condition. He said the storm water regulations now in effect are very strict. Previous developments in the Town did not have these systems.

Planning & Zoning Commission Referrals:

Mr. Hillman noted the comments to P&Z regarding 144 Five Mile River Road after the review by Ms. Shapiro and staff.

Mr. Jacobson said that the redevelopment of 1292 Post Road will include stormwater management measures. The Commission requested comments to P&Z in favor of requiring the stormwater management for the project as an improvement over existing conditions.

Mr. Hillman made a motion to approve the minutes of January 5 as amended. Mr. Kenyon seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. Mr. Rohr and Mr. Flaherty abstained.

Mr. Kenyon made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Shapiro seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Jacobson
Environmental Protection Officer