



SHREWSBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

MINUTES

Regular Meeting: March 21, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.
Location: Selectman’s Room, Shrewsbury Town Hall, 100 Maple Ave., Shrewsbury, MA
Attending: John Ostrosky; Martha Gach; Kenneth Polito; Jason Port; Chris DeLauder
Absent: None
Also Attending: Eleah Caseau, Conservation Agent; Andrew Truman, P.E., Town Engineer

Chairman J.Ostrosky called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. Review and Approve Minutes –

- a. *K.Polito M to approve the following minutes. J.Port S. C.DeLauder abstained from all but February 21,2023 as he was not on the Commission for prior meetings.*
 - i. *October 16, 2018(V 4-0); December 18, 2018 (V 4-0); March 19, 2019(V 4-0); April 20, 2021(V 4-0); June 17, 2021(V 4-0); February 21, 2023(V 5-0).*
- b. *K.Polito M to approve the following minutes. M.Gach S. V 3-0.*
 - i. *July 19, 2016 (J.Port absent); October 15, 2019 (J.Port absent); July 20, 2021 (J.Port absent).*
- c. *K.Polito M to approve the following minutes. J.Port S.V 3-0.*
 - i. *August 16, 2016(M.Gach absent)*

2. Sign bills

No Bills to sign.

3. Meetings and Hearings – 7:05 P.M.

285-1956 *Continued Public Hearing regarding the Notice of Intent filed by Rashid Shaikh, 24 Sheryl Drive, Shrewsbury, for the construction of two single-family houses at 42 Sadler Avenue & 37-39 Melvin Avenue.*

Scott Goddard of Goddard Consulting is presenting. James Duffy, attorney, and Rashid Sheikh, property owner, were also present.

Plans have not been altered since previous meeting. S.Goddard explained that the location should not receive frequent flooding and that homes will be prepared for most severe floods but they do not expect those frequently.

J.Duffy gave an overview of the proposed covenant with changes based on Commission Staff comments. The proposed covenant would prohibit the right of homeowners to store materials deemed hazardous. Discussion was had about definitions apparent in the covenant.

J.Port asked if town council had reviewed the proposed covenant and asked about the town’s ability or willingness to take on the liability of enforcement. Commission staff noted that it had not gone before town council. K.Polito and C.DeLauder had similar concerns. J.Ostrosky suggested limiting access to the basement area. S.Goddard addressed Commissions’ concerns and noted that this style of flood storage is common throughout towns in Massachusetts. R.Sheikh commented on the project.

M.Gach asked S.Goddard to speak to the history of the system’s use across Massachusetts and if problems had occurred in the past. S.Goddard noted that they had been installed widely and he had not personally seen relevant issues arise after installation.

J.Ostrosky ‘polled’ Commissioners about whether or not design should be changed to reflect Commission concerns of compensatory storage. M.Gach and J.Port were amenable to a pier system. K.Polito and C.DeLauder requested they see the plans before making a decision.

J.Ostrosky asked if a frost wall foundation was considered but noted that a pier system may work better to dissuade residents from storing belongings of value or hazard under the home.

J.Ostrosky asked applicant if he would consider reducing project size to one home on the two plots. R.Sheikh replied that he would not reduce from the current proposal of two houses.

Questions or Concerns from the Public.

Elaine Strzelewicz, 37 Everett Avenue had comments on the discussion.

Chairman Ostrosky continued the hearing to April 18, 2023.

285-1959 **New Public Hearing regarding the Notice of Intent filed by Plug Power, 968 Albany Shaker Road, Latham, NY, 12110, for the construction and installation of hydrogen storage and compression system pad and associated tree removal and site work at 42-44 Bowditch Drive.**

Paul Grady, the applicant, is presenting.

Certified mailings were not provided. P.Grady gave an overview of the project. In an effort to replace the current energy systems of lead batteries the applicant is proposing a hydrogen system. The proposed hydrogen pad is within the outer riparian zone of the riverfront area. P.Grady explained the location of the pad and the resource areas on site, discussion was had about possibly moving the pad outside of the riparian zone and the limits of the property.

M.Gach had questions about whether or not the removed trees would be replaced. P.Grady stated that no combustible plants could be around the pad and that grass would be planted.

J.Port asked about how much hydrogen would be stored on site.

K.Polito noted that the Commission would need clarified how much of the project is within the Riverfront Area.

Discussion was had about clarifying the zone definition and the requirements of the regulations. The Commission recommended that the wetland scientist for the project attend the next meeting.

No Public Questions or Comments.

Chairman Ostrosky continued the hearing to April 18, 2023.

285-1962 **New Public Hearing regarding the Notice of Intent filed by Michael Clemmey, 111 Morse Street, Norwood, MA, 02062, for the construction of an automobile dealership with associated grading, site work, retaining walls and stormwater mitigation at 701 Boston Turnpike.**

Patrick Healy of Thompson-Liston Associates is presenting. Tim Tooley the director of construction is also present.

P.Healy gave overview of the project and the resource areas present on the site. The project has completed the process in front of Zoning and Planning Boards. A Bordering Vegetated Wetland is located at the Northeast corner of the property. Grading is proposed to be phased beginning in the Southwest direction and working North and East. Excess material from grading will be removed from site.

Stormwater report has been submitted to the town stormwater staff with peer review by Graves Engineering. P.Healy gave an overview of the engineered stormwater systems in place including three roof runoff subsurface catchment system, three retention basins and rip-rap outlets for overflow. The northern retention pond cuts into the 100 ft. buffer zone by approximately 30ft.

Chairman Ostrosky Closed the Hearing.

285-1953 **Continued Public Hearing regarding the Notice of Intent filed by Nicholas Soutter, 36 Old Brook Road, Shrewsbury for the construction of a retaining wall to stabilize and level the backyard lawn at 36 Old Brook Road.**

Applicant requested continuance to April 18, 2021.

285-1960 **New Public Hearing regarding the Notice of Intent filed by Keith Senior, 136 South Quinsigamond Avenue, Shrewsbury, for the replacement of a deck, grading and associated site work at 136 South Quinsigamond Avenue.**

Kate O'Donnell of EcoTec Inc. is presenting.

K.O'Donnell gave an overview of the project. The house abuts Lake Quinsigamond and erosion control is proposed along the limit of work.

No Questions or Comments.

Chairman Ostrosky Closed the Hearing

285-1961 **New Public Hearing regarding the Notice of Intent filed by Mary J. Holland, 8132 Flint Pond Crossing Circle, Shrewsbury, for the razing and rebuilding of a single-family home with associated site work and installation of a retaining wall at 332 South Quinsigamond Avenue.**

Kate O'Donnell of EcoTec Inc. is presenting.

K.O'Donnell gave an overview of the project. There is an NHESP habitat on site, but as the project is on previously developed land, it is exempt. The retaining wall is proposed to be reconstructed during the drawdown period. Clarification was made on which retaining walls would be replaced on the property.

No Questions or Comments from the Public.

Chairman Ostrosky Closed the Hearing.

RDA New Public Hearing regarding the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Daniel Rowley on behalf of the Town of Shrewsbury, 100 Maple Ave, Shrewsbury, for the clearing of brush and small trees at 45 Main Street.

Joseph Kenney, Assistant superintendent of the Water treatment plant is presenting.

J.Kenney gave a history and overview of the project. The applicant would like to remove small trees and underbrush to increase visibility to wells on the property. Discussion was had about the caliper of tree being proposed to be removed. The original application denoted a 12 inch caliper and the Commission proposed a 6 inch caliper for the limit of size in tree.

M.Gach asked how removed brush and trees would be removed and recommended that the cut brush remain in place.

J.Kenney stated that debris would remain in place.

K.Polito M to issue a negative determination with condition that trees be chopped larger than 6 DBH remain. M.Gach S. V 5-0.

285-1820 Extension Permit for 547 Hartford Turnpike.

K.Polito recused himself from the hearing.

Kevin Quinn, the applicant's representative, requested a 3 year extension on the Order.

J.Port M to issue an extension permit beginning on June 16, 2023 for 3 years. C.DeLauder S. V 4-0.

4. New & Old Business

a. Discuss/Sign Orders of Conditions, Determinations of Applicability

- 285-1956 42 Sadler Avenue & 37-39 Melvin Avenue- *Continued.*
- 285-1959 42-44 Bowditch Drive- *Continued.*
- 285-1962 701 Boston Turnpike- *K.Polito M to issue an OOC. C.DeLauder S. V 5-0.*
- 285-1953 36 Old Brook Road- *Continued.*
- 285-1960 136 South Quinsigamond Avenue- *K.Polito M. M.Gach S. V 5-0.*
- 285-1961 332 South Quinsigamond Avenue- *K.Polito M with condition that registered land surveyor stake out the wall at the base of the property. C.DeLauder S. V 5-0.*
- RDA 45 Main Street- *Negative determination issued.*
- 285-1820 547 Hartford Turnpike- *J.Port M to issue an extension permit beginning on June 16, 2023 for 3 years. C.DeLauder S. V 4-0.*

b. Discuss Enforcement Orders

**56 Oregon Ave (285-1819)
284 South Quinsigamond Ave
29 Redland Ave.**

23 Bayview Drive

Adam Mason, the homeowner is presenting.

He gave an overview of the work done and a history of the property with the Town. The commission will discuss next steps. A site inspection was performed by E.Caseau on 2 occasions. At the original inspection it was found that the original permit was for reroofing but siding on home had also been removed and significant debris had been found around the work site. Home is estimated to be about 50 ft. from Lake Quinsigamond.

20 Tamarack Lane

Ron and Leann Manzella, the homeowners, are presenting.

R.Manzella gave a history of the new dock and the reason for the change in structure. They have had a similar dock for a few decades but after a winter storm that took the structural integrity out of the dock, it had collapsed. The homeowner replaced the footings and undercarriage of the dock to support it. J.Ostrosky discussed concerns of the new structure and the more permanent footings. The commission advised that the footings be removed and a float system replace the existing footings.

7 Purinton Street

John Gamari, the homeowner is presenting.

He gave a history of his ownership of the property and the reason for the changes. He had been doing some cleanup of the wetland and had created a path into the wetland to connect an existing path. The Commission told him to remove the walkway stone back to the stone wall.

c. Discuss/Sign Certificates of Compliance

285-1738 935 Main Street

285-1675 Oak Meadow Circle- *COC Issued.*

285-1893 Centech park North- *COC Issued.*

d. Review and Approve Bylaw for Town Meeting

Still under review, should be ready for vote at April meeting.

K.Polito **M** to adjourn. M.Gach **S. V 5-0.**

Chairman J.Ostrosky adjourned the meeting at 10:00 pm

Scribed by Eleah Caseau, Conservation Agent. March 2023.