

**Town of Blandford  
Conservation Commission Minutes  
February 14, 2022 6:00 PM**

**Commission Members in attendance:** Dick Gates, Colleen Doyle, Jon Piper, and Nate Maynard.

**Others in Attendance:** Thomas Deveno Jr. by conference call (abutter to B Bernier), Jeff Smith of Prime AE representing B Bernier.

**I. New Business**

**a. Public Hearing: Notice of Intent for B Bernier – Rt 23 / Woronoco Rd.**

Notice of Intent has been submitted to DEP and Blandford ConCom, but DEP comments and file number have not been issued yet.

**J Piper made a motion to begin the discussion regarding the NOI and continue the public hearing once DEP comments and file number are received. D Gates seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Commission.**

Jeff Smith of Prime AE, formerly Salvini Associates Inc., provided an overview of the NOI. First site visit was in mid Oct. where erosion controls were discussed and implemented at a subsequent visit. The following points were addressed in the overview:

- Reduced footprint from original proposal to minimize additional excavation; footprint will be 900ft<sup>2</sup>
- Erosion controls will be implemented during all future work including: core logs, straw bales, jute fiber on slopes.
- Fifty gallon dry wells will be installed at both south and east building corners to allow infiltration and mitigate runoff.
- Any further soil excavation / movement will remain onsite.

D Gates stated had concerns regarding soil being kept onsite, as B Bernier had originally stated it would be taken offsite. How will be soil be stored / spread? If it remains within the 200' buffer than it will need to be addressed with ConCom. Questions also arose regarding plantings of trees and shrubs to offset those that were already removed.

Thomas Deveno Jr., abutter, had concerns regarding the grade of the hill behind the proposed garage and future erosion issues. D Gates offered to leave a copy of the NOI / site plan for his review and stated that the proposed plan, if followed, should address these concerns.

**J Smith will be following up with B Bernier regarding concerns with soil storage as well as preparing a more detailed outline of shrub / tree plantings. Updates will be presented at the continuation of the public hearing on March 14<sup>th</sup>.**

## II. Ongoing Business

a. **Belle Fleur (Mass DEP File # 111-059): Stoppage of Site Work**

Joe Rogers of GZA stated that the most recent inspection was good and that the site still remains frozen. Inspections will continue on a monthly basis, or after any rainfall of half inch or more, until the site thaws or work resumes.

b. **Mass DOT Violation: Utility Installation between Rt. 23 and Mass Turnpike**

Amer Raza of Mass DOT wrote to the Commission stating that they would have an NOI prepared by the spring. The Commission responded that since the violation had occurred in December, it was imperative that an NOI or restoration plan be submitted prior to the next meeting (3/14). Ownership of the property still remains unclear. If no plan is submitted, an enforcement letter will be issued to ensure the violation is addressed in a timely fashion.

c. **Rt. 23 Potential WPA Violations**

D Gates determined the ownership of the former Sheep Gate property and will be sending a letter of inquiry regarding potential work within the riverfront area of Bedlam Brook. Follow-up from concerns brought to ConCom from a resident.

d. **Town of Blandford: N Blandford Rd Project**

Conversations continue with the Highway Department regarding culvert work and potential need for permitting.

e. **Drainage Issues: Nye Brook / Huntington Rd.**

No new updates; mitigation discussions continue with the town Highway Department.

f. **Long Pond Conservation Area: Trail Development**

Project will continue once a favorable date is agreed upon.

Callie Doyle  
John L. Piper  
Mark  
Richard W. Gates