

Town of Blandford
Conservation Commission Minutes
January 9, 2023 6:00 PM

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

Others in Attendance: Adam Mazzantini of Foresight Engineering (Representing Belle Fleur), Rolandy Romelus of Belle Fleur (via Conference Call)

I. New Business

a. Review proposed Belle Fleur Marijuana Facility modifications received 12/20/22 (File #111-0060).

A. Mazzantini provided an overview of the proposed modifications including:

- Reduced footprint of main building by 3000 ft² (10,000ft² to 6875ft²).
- Increasing spacing between greenhouses from 10ft to 12ft.
- Northwestern most greenhouse moving north slightly due to increased spacing.
- Northeastern most greenhouse extending 1ft closer into the riverfront area.

C. Doyle responded that there had been numerous prior discussions that there would be no further modifications regarding work within the riverfront. D. Gates agreed. R. Romelus stated that he felt the changes to the construction plan are reasonable and part of the process and real-life application of the plan. C. Doyle stated that the original modification request for the building plan, footprint, and layout, were significant enough to warrant a new NOI but that the Commission is trying to provide some allowances, but that continued revisions are proposed. D. Gates emphasized that this is the 4th set of modifications and that the current proposal is within the resource area and would impact wetlands.

A. Mazzantini continued with description of proposed modifications to include:

- Removal of hazardous trees surrounding the worksite and within the wetlands and riverfront area.

Questions were raised regarding the number of trees proposed for removal and whether they are live or dead. It was stated that the total number of trees were unknown but that a formal count could be made the next day. R. Romelus stated that it was a mix of live and dead trees and that the greenhouse manufacturer wouldn't insure the project without wider clearance. D. Gates asked who would be marking the trees and what their credentials were. R. Romelus stated that he had an equipment operator that he felt was experienced enough for the job. D. Gates stated that the modification request would need to be in writing with details on who would be marking the trees along with credentials and that it should be done by a licensed forester or arborist.

D. Gates made a motion to continue the modification request review until the next meeting on 2/13/23 with the stipulation that the Commission receive written details regarding the tree removal proposal. J. Piper seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

II. Continuing Business

- a. MA-DOT, 20 Woronoco Road (Rt. 23) RDA for placement of one utility pole.
Tabled until the Commission receives more information or an update from DOT.
- b. Continued discussion on Forest Management Plan for Shephard Farm property
Questions remain whether timber harvest proceeds would be earmarked for conservation related projects on the parcel. If not, where would the funds go? There is potential interest in pursuing a timber harvest if it could fund development of recreational opportunities on the property.

Richard W. Gates
Cullen Duke
John A. Piper
Matter