

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Site Walk Workshop Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Jeremy Degler, Kevin Dodds, Scott Orzechowski & Dale Smith-Kenyon**

MEMBERS ABSENT: **Doug Bryar, Sean Collins & Jeremy Rhodes**

STAFF PRESENT: **Dana Crossley, Planning Technician & Police Officer Tully**

The meeting was called to order by S. Orzechowski at 3:08 PM.

1) WORKSHOP BUSINESS

A) Site walk of property seeking a Conditional Use Permit for after the fact excavation and alterations within the Riparian and Wetland Buffer on a property located at 25 Otis Road, in the Residential/Single Family (R1) District, Assessor's Map 31 Lot 49, CUP#03-2023

Mike Davis, property owner was in attendance at the site-walk to review work done at the property.

Davis reviewed the location of the property boundaries of the site. Noted he is also considering removing additional pine trees in the future and inquired about removal of vegetation that overhangs the pond. He reviewed the site work completed at the property.

Dodds inquired about the work done for the drainage pipe.

Davis indicated the disturbed area starts at the location of the drainage pipe. It is noted that the pipe is 12”.

There was a brief discussion regarding existing vegetation that has fallen over and wildlife on site. Along with a discussion of removal of trees.

Orzechowski inquired about what grading was done to the property.

Davis stated he did grade the property but it remains at a similar slope, 4” of loam was added.

The Commission reviewed the outlet pipe.

Davis noted the locations of the test pits that were still flagged. He indicated the location of the pipe in relation to the grade, the top of the pipe is level with current grade.

It was noted that silt fence is installed on site.

Davis stated he installed the silt fence prior to starting work.

Orzechowski asked how long has the pipe been installed.

Davis stated the first section was installed around 2007-2008 and the remaining was installed between 2010-2012.

Smith-Kenyon inquired if the pipe is in good condition and it has not been crushed by the rocks that are currently piled on it.

Davis stated it is not crushed; it is designed to be installed within roadways.

Degler noted the wetland vegetation in place and that it would take a couple more years to develop into a community.

Orzechowski inquired about changes in flow of water on site.

Davis stated the flow has remained the same with or without the pipe.

Dodds noted that without installation of the pipe there would be some absorption of water within the channel that the pipe is currently. Inquired about re-vegetation plans.

Davis stated he would like to consider the change in land for potential of subdivision in the future. He stated he would loam for grass or apply for a subdivision.

The Commission discussed how grass would not be the most suitable planting to provide a protective vegetated buffer to the wetlands in that area. Noted that the focus would not be on the potential of future subdivision but the current application under review.

Davis indicated he would be favorable to planting shrubs, such as high bush blueberries.

The Commission discussed benefits of shrub and fruit tree plantings for the wildlife on site. It was noted there is a large area of woodchips on site, inquired if these were from trees on site.

Davis stated that the woodchips came from trees offsite. He pointed out the location of the rocks and fill that was moved out of the pond by the prior property owner.

Orzechowski asked if there was an intention for further work on site.

Davis stated he wanted to do more work to smooth out the site. He reviewed work that had been completed, including changes to the slope and noted he would like to use the rocks as a berm at the property edge.

There was a brief discussion regarding the existing vegetation on site. Invasive plants were discussed but not noted on site as part of this review.

Davis pointed out areas that were filled with loam. He reviewed the work that was done to the edge of the pond. He indicated the pond has fish, frogs and turtles living in it. The fish were not stocked.

Orzechowski inquired about the buffer area to the pond, inquired what was previously there. Davis stated it was unmaintained vegetation, similar to other areas around the pond currently. He noted the cattails have been re-established.

There was a brief discussion regarding growth of vegetation within the pond.

Orzechowski noted that a vegetated buffer around the pond would help with keeping the pond temperatures cooler.

There was a brief discussion regarding potential trees that could be planted around the pond. It was recommended that Davis review the suggested trees from the Tree Ordinance.

Orzechowski inquired how to evaluate the flow of the pipe. He inquired about changes to the pond level.

Davis stated it is a spring fed pond, it remains rather consistent with the level about a 5-6" fluctuation depending on the weather. He noted that the pond level would not remain so consistent without the pipe and rock modifications he had completed.

There was a brief discussion regarding the potential vegetation plantings for the site. Allowance for access points to the pond and regrowth of existing natural vegetation.

Staff will provide Davis a copy of the suggested tree species for him to review prior to the next Conservation Commission meeting, scheduled for December 13th.

Meeting adjourned at 4:03PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Dana Crossley, Planning Technician