

Conservation Commission Meeting  
Sharon Community Center  
January 22, 2015

Peg Arguimbau, Chairperson, Elizabeth McGrath, Stephen Cremer, Keevin Geller, Linda Orel and Merideth Avery were the members present. Members not present: Alan Westman arrived to the meeting at 8:30pm. The Conservation Administrator, Greg Meister, was also present.

Meeting started at 7:45pm

**7:45PM Hearing – Notice of Intent, DEP SE#280-0568**

Stop & Shop; - Fuel Tank Replacement, 2R General Edwards Highway

Representing the applicant was Jocelyn Mayer from VHB.

Meredith Avery recused herself from the hearing as she is an employee of VHB.

Mayer gave a brief overview of the project:

- Replacement of existing fuel tanks. Currently there are four tanks. Will be replacing with two tanks with the same volume as the existing tanks.
- The station will be closed during replacement, and the site will be repaved with a reduction in impervious area.
- Mayer met with Conservation Administrator Miester, and agent from Walpole.
- If the project is approved, work at the site will begin early summer and should take approximately 6 weeks.
- Snow Removal - Snow will be plowed away from the wetlands area.
- Existing tanks will be removed and discarded properly.
- If dewatering is required, the Conservation Agent shall be provided with 24 hours notification.

Issuance of Order of Conditions shall be per plan, if dewatering is required then the Conservation Agent shall be provided with 24 hours notification. DEP number shall be posted at the site.

**Motion to** close hearing upon receipt of revised plan.  
Cremer, Westman 5-0-0

**8:00PM Greg Meister – Informational Discussion on the lake**

Meister was asked to give a brief presentation to the Commission on his role in managing the lake and what is involved.

In terms of managing the Lake, Meister spoke about the following:

- Issuance of Order of Conditions with regards to the Lake.
- Lake is managed for water quality, not for quantity.
- Management of the Lake often times comes down to precipitation.
- It is Meister's opinion that there has been a progressive decline in groundwater, which he believes affects how the Lake is managed.

- There is no law or regulation which states how much water can/should be let out from the Lake. The amount of water released from the Lake is based upon several factors.
  - Meister gave a brief description on how Manns Pond and Hammershop Pond tie into the lake.
- From a water conservation standpoint, the Town of Sharon has done more than most Towns.
- Surrounding towns pump and draw a lot of water - which for the Town of Sharon can pose a problem. Meister believes this should be looked into and addressed.
- MWRA - though the Commission supports and supported hookup to the MRWA for an emergency backup, there is a rumor that the Town may be looking to fully tie into the MWRA. This is concerning for a number of reasons including the fact that the Town will not be able to mitigate what occurs outside of the town boundaries and from a water recharge perspective.
- Area watershed group consists of Sharon, Easton, Foxboro, Mansfield and Norton. Lake Massapoag is the headwater for the Canoe River.
- Due to the Landscape of Sharon, it is critical at this time, that something be done.
- Meister is concerned that from a hydrological or wetland standpoint, things seem to be progressing rapidly, and there is concern that the Town does not consider this issue a priority.

#### Possible next steps

- It is critical that the Town hook up to the MWRA for water and have as an emergency backup. (not full hookup)
- Cost of hooking up to the MRWA? Originally hookup was to be through the Town of Stoughton. The Town of Norwood is now being looked at.
- Perhaps reach out to other Federal (State) Agencies who study this type of water/water recharge issues who may be able to assist the Town in defining what the problem is. (Meister informed the Committee that this has been done in the past, unfortunately at that time, a partner could not be found.
- Meister informed the Commission that they should review the information on the website. At this point, he would prefer that the Commission not discuss whether or not there is a problem, but rather, acknowledge that there is an issue and what they will do.
- Meister's concern is what will happen if the wetlands, or their function, is lost.
- Are there other available options besides Cedar Swamp? The Commission should bring this up with the Water Commissioners. Meister believes that the water commissioners should be asked to assert some leadership. (Perhaps a more regional approach to water use?)
- Possible meeting with local Town Water Managers? Would the State be willing to help and assist in convening this meeting?
- Town leadership. Should they reach out to their counterparts in other Towns?
- What are other Town Conservation Commissions doing? Perhaps Meister should reach out to them and discuss water conservation and management.

- Work with the Watershed Association?
- Work with the State?

Decision Items:

- Meister to speak with Fred Turkington, Town Manager
- Commission to send letter to BOS about tonight's Commission meeting and what is/has been going on.
- Perhaps meet with surrounding Towns or the Canoe River Watershed Towns? Meister will speak with Turkington first and perhaps Canoe River.
- Photos. Would be good to show pictures of the Lake from the past, showing holes in the ice.
- Will revisit this topic at February meeting.

**8:15PM Keevin Geller – Update on BOS Meeting**

BOS have not yet set a meeting date.

**8:30PM Warrant Article – Conservation Commission Stance on Banning of Jet Skis at the Lake**

The warrant deadline is the last week in January. Should the commission ask for a place holder? Meister is worried about going to Town Meetings. He would agree with Geller that the Board of Selectman, acting as Police Commissioners, could hold a public hearing and amend and adopt the police regulations to include a regulation which would ban jet skis from the Lake. Perhaps that is the way the Commission should go on this.

Question was raised as to whether the BOS are in support of banning jet skis. If they are in support, then they should be asked to support and amend the change in the police regulations, using the motion and wording from the Conservation Commission Meeting of March 3, 2014 which states as follows: Moved, to ban, within the Town of Sharon, the use of personal watercraft, jet skis, surf jet boats and/or any vessel propelled by a water jet pump or similar machinery as its primary source of propulsion since such vessels have been shown to transfer various invasives and/or non-native species.

If the BOS, acting as Police Commissioners, do not want to amend the police regulations then how should the Commission proceed? This would then need to be discussed at a later meeting.

It was decided, and a motion was made, that Geller should incorporate into his discussion with the BOS their feelings on the banning of jet skis.

Avery, McGrath 6-0-0

**Appointment of Commissions Appointees to Various Committees**

1. Cremer will remain on Codification Review Committee
2. McGrath will remain on Lake Review Committee

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3. Lake Management Committee – Arguimbaun has not yet heard back if current appointees would like to remain on the Committee, therefore, held off reappointment for the Lake Management Committee.
4. Geller will remain on CPC
5. Arguimbau will remain on Open Space Committee

**Motion** to reaffirm appointments  
Cremer, Avery 6-0-0

At February 5th Meeting. Hopefully will have heard back from the Lake Management Committee appointees on whether they wish to remain on the Committee. Their three year terms are up.

**New Business:**

Meister showed Commission photo of a new home being constructed on Bay Road, near Chessman Street. He received a phone call from a concerned neighbor on the clearcutting of the site. Meister spoke with the property owner and they will be filing a notice of intent.

**Meeting Minutes**

Approval of meeting minutes dated January 8, 2015  
Spelling correction, middle of page 2, “schedule”.  
Motion to accept January 8th minutes as amended  
Westman, Orel 6-0-0

Next Commission meeting will begin at 7pm - Meister to present to the Lake Management Review Committee. Regular scheduled Commission meeting will meet at 8PM

Agenda item for next meeting: Guidelines and Bylaws. Orel will work on.

Meeting adjourned at 9.20pm.  
Cremer, McGrath 6-0-0