

**Philipstown Conservation Advisory Committee  
Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516  
April 14, 2009**

The CAC held its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at the Town Hall. Mr. Lind opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**Present:** David Klotzle (Wetland Inspector)  
Eric Lind (Acting Chairperson)  
M.J. Martin  
Mark Galezo  
Lou Kingsley  
Michael Leonard  
Bob Repetto  
Andy Galler

Mr. Lind explained that Ms. Martin would not be part of any discussion concerning the Buck application.

Mr. Watson explained the site and location of the project. He said that approximately two thirds of the frontage is affected by local wetlands. He showed the members the outline on the map. He told the members that the proposed project was reconstruction of the barn and an addition to the south to create a guest quarters type building. He explained that the guest quarter building would be connected by a boardwalk from the existing main house to the proposed guest home through the wetlands buffer and a portion of the wetland. He said that a total of about a third of an acre would be disturbed.

Mr. Coleman said that the proposed boardwalk would be done with sonotubes to provide the footings for the boardwalk. He said that the tubes would be about two feet from the surface to allow a little light to come through to promote plant growth. He said that they would like to have the boardwalk blend in as close as possible to blend it with the existing grade. He said that a wood called IPE would be used on the boardwalk. He said that the Bucks would like to do some invasive plant management. He explained that there was some Purple Loose Strife and some Multi Flora Rows that have come in a couple of sections. He pointed to the sections on the map and showed where these were located. He said that they would like to enhance the wetland with some more native grasses, blue stems, and some other things to serve as a vegetative filter. He said that they wanted to provide some habitat as well.

Mr. Lind said that when visiting the site there seemed to be more Loose Strife than was pointed out by Mr. Coleman. Mr. Lind then went down to the map and pointed out the areas that he remembered seeing the Loose Strife. Mr. Lind asked if it was suggested by Mr. Coleman to remove the Loose Strife by hand.

Mr. Coleman said yes. He said that it would minimize the effect on the wetland. He explained that it may take a few seasons to accomplish that. He said that if you do that and replant with other good aggressive emergents, they will compete with the Loose Strife. He said that he did not think that it would ever be completely eradicated, but thought that it could get to the point to where it was a minor issue. He said that the other approach that could be used was glyphosate. He said that the reason he did not propose that was because he did not know if the CAC members would be comfortable with that approach. He said that it is less labor intensive and is very effective as well.

Mr. Lind asked what Mr. Coleman's opinion was about Loose Strife recovering back into the site.

Mr. Coleman said that it is such an aggressive plant, that it just takes over the area. He said that there will be ongoing maintenance. He said that the Bucks are very interested in maintain the natural landscaping and are willing to put in the effort.

Mr. Lind asked if Mr. Coleman if it would be a good idea to have (inaudible) beetles for the Loose Strife control.

Mr. Coleman said that is something that could be tried if they could get a permit to do that.

Mr. Lind said that it is the kind of thing that once it is established they are always working to minimize the Loose Strife from recovering. He said that there are some pretty strong opinions on that type of biological control, but thought it might be a good idea.

Mr. Rhodes said that the Bucks were very enthusiastic about making the property a real wildlife place and restoring the wetlands. He said he did not know if the Bucks would have a problem with the beetles. He then asked if it had any deteriorating effects on other wildlife.

Mr. Lind said that science has shown not. He said that they have been releasing them across the North East for many years.

Someone asked what kind of beetle they were.

Mr. Lind said that they are a small beetle that graze on the leaves and there are some that graze on the unopened flower buds. He said that there is a third that is a weevil that will eat the roots. He said that the one he is most familiar with the leaf grazer, and as the leaves bud in the spring they will eat it dead.

Someone asked if they would go after other plantings.

Mr. Lind said that before they were released that extensive research was done on to make sure that the only plant that they would get to would be the Loose Strife. He said that there are always unknowns, but seems to be pretty effective. He said that he just wanted to put the idea out there as a possible option. He suggested that they read about it to see if a little colony could be established in such a small wetland.

Someone asked if the beetles were a native species.

Mr. Lind said no.

Mr. Galler said that he did not think the wetland would be big enough.

Mr. Lind said that he thought that it would be worth looking into. Mr. Lind then moved on and asked about the actual construction process of the boardwalk.

Mr. Coleman said that there were several methods, but the most cost effective would be a rubber track machine that is very small so that it would minimize disturbance to about a five foot width.

Mr. Galler asked how deep the footings would be.

Someone answered about three and one half feet.

Mr. Galler asked how many sonotubes were going to be placed.

Mr. Coleman answered ten feet on center.

Mr. Galler asked for a total number.

Someone said about thirty.

Mr. Galler asked if they were dual or single.

Mr. Coleman said single.

Mr. Lind asked if they were sure that the wetland would recover after the mashing of the soil with that type of machine. He then explained how the Constitution Marsh built their boardwalk by laying down mats or even timbers in order to distribute the weight of the track and spread the load.

Mr. Rhodes said that if it was explained exactly how it was done at Constitution Marsh, they would do it that way at the Buck residence.

Mr. Lind said that planks or mats would be used, and the machine would ride on those. He said that it would compress it, but the wetland would not be brutalized from the machine.

Mr. Lind suggested that helical piers be used to prevent actual excavation of the wetland soil. He explained how they are spun in like a giant screw and then fittings that slide on top of the metal post that will receive the joist or the crossbeams.

The members discussed different ways to set the helical piers. They talked about the advantage of no excavation.

Mr. Lind suggested doing some more homework on the idea and offered to give some information that he had on a company that could be used.

Mr. Lind asked if the work would be done during a dry period.

Mr. Coleman said that the area seemed to dry pretty quick, and can be dry as early as May or June.

Mr. Rhodes showed the members a model of the project and property. He showed them where the septic, well, boardwalk and trenches would be located.

Mr. Lind said that the CAC would need to see a more detailed restoration showing the buffer plantings. He also said that he wanted a construction narrative with more detail about the boardwalk. He said that the design elements of the gap between the boards would need to be shown for light penetration.

Mr. Rhodes asked what the minimum gap amount would be.

Mr. Lind said he was not sure and would need to research that.

Mr. Coleman suggested plantings on the edge of the boardwalk to promote growth.

It was discussed that the boardwalk may require a railing, and Mr. Rhodes was instructed to speak with the Building Inspector about the code requirements that needed to be met.

Mr. Watson said that they would provide the updated information to the CAC in the next few weeks.

Mr. Lind asked about using the road to get from one home to the other.

Mr. Rhodes explained that the elderly mother would be living there, and would need a more direct path from house to house.

Mr. Lind instructed to give a call if there were any questions.

Mr. Lind asked if the original permit was expired.

Mr. Klotzle said yes.

Mr. Rossouw said that the permit had expired in February of 2009. He said that he forgot to apply for the renewal a month in advance and that is why he had to come in.

Mr. Klotzle said it was more than a month, and thought that it should be looked at again.

Mr. Rossouw said that everything was the same and nothing would change.

Mr. Klotzle said that he was out there and some things had been changed. He said that he talked to Mr. Bellusio, and he sent a new set of plans. Mr. Klotzle said that the newer plan still showed all the detail of the original plan, but also showed better detail of the septic that would be surrounded by a clay berm on three sides. Mr. Klotzle explained how the drainage system would work.

Mr. Rossouw said that there was no surface water being diverted into the pipe. He told the CAC that the only water would be from the runoff from the rain.

Mr. Klotzle and Mr. Rossouw discussed the plan more.

Mr. Klotzle asked Mr. Rossouw if he had permission to do part of the work needed to be done on his neighbor's property.

Mr. Rossouw said yes.

Mr. Klotzle asked if he had that in writing.

Mr. Rossouw said yes.

Mr. Klotzle told him that the CAC needed a letter, before any permit could be issued.

Ms. Martin said she had visited the property the day before and could not find the culvert.

Mr. Rossouw said that the culvert still needed to be installed. He explained to the members what exists and what still needed to be done.

They discussed the drainage plan more.

Mr. Lind wanted to know how the CAC was going to be assured that the curtain drain was going to be effective.

Mr. Rossouw said if you went and dug a seven foot deep hole that no water would be found. He said that he had installed many curtain drains in the past, and if they are done right there would be no problems.

Mr. Lind said that he was concerned that there would be some sort of short circuit between the treatment area and the surface water that is around it.

Mr. Rossouw explained that the clay that would be used is like talcum powder, and said absolutely no water would seep through it. He said that there was no way that the septic runoff would ever get into the drainage pipe.

Mr. Lind said that he felt a third party review would be needed.

Mr. Galler suggested sending the questions over to the town engineer.

Mr. Klotzle said that they could do that.

Mr. Lind asked if the Health Department reviewed everything.

Mr. Rossouw said yes and that Mr. Belluscio was working on more for them

Mr. Lind said that he wanted the Town Engineer to review the plan.

Mr. Rossouw asked if anything was needed from him.

Ms. Andress reminded him to bring the letter granting him permission to do the work on his neighbors' property.

Mr. Galezo commented on how very well he thought the septic system was designed.

Mr. Klotzle agreed.

It was discussed that an escrow account will need to be set up for the project.

**Garrison Station Plaza**

**TM# 60.17-1-7**

**PBR**

Ms. Martin said that the Planning Board was holding off on this for now.

The members of the CAC familiarized themselves with the property and what is existing at the moment. They will discuss again when more information about what will be proposed is in front of them.

### **Discussion/ Creation of a flow chart for all Town permits**

Mr. Klotzle said that Mr. Shea would like the CAC to help create a flow chart for the Town.

Ms. Martin said that she would be getting with others from the Planning Board and ZBA to try and come up with some ideas for a productive flow chart system. She said that she would bring those ideas before the members to discuss in the future.

### **Approval of Minutes for September 9, 2008, October 14, 2008 and November 18, 2008**

Mr. Lind made a motion to approve the minutes.

Ms. Martin seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

### **Adjournment:**

Mr. Lind made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms Martin seconded. All were in favor. The meeting ended at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Yours,

Tina Andress- Landolfi

Note: These minutes were prepared for the Town Of Philipstown Conservation Advisory Committee and are subject to review, comment, and approval thereupon.