



Town of Uxbridge  
Conservation Commission  
21 South Main Street  
Uxbridge, MA 01569  
508-278-8600 x 2020



**Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
October 19, 2020  
Remote Meeting**

REC'D UXB TOWN CLERK  
2020 NOV 9 AM 8:30

**Present:** Vice Chair Jim Hogan Clerk, Treasurer Lauren Steele, Members Dale Bangma, Jessica Cleary and Conservation Agent Michèle Grenier

**Absent:** Chairperson Jeff Shaw, Member Mark Richardson

**CALL TO ORDER**

It being approximately 6:30pm, the meeting being properly posted, duly called, and a quorum being present digitally, the Chair called the meeting to order. He stated the following to explain the purpose for the remote meeting: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Uxbridge Conservation Commission is being conducted via remote participation. Although, no in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, the Town of Uxbridge has made every effort to ensure the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time via technological means. This meeting is being streamed on Uxbridge Community Television and Zoom per the instructions on the agenda alternatively members of the public can call in by calling 301-715-8592 and using meeting i.d 98380403155. All motions will be voted on with roll call vote in alphabetical order by last name.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**1. Notice of Intent (NOI) DEP No. 312-1096, 0 Old Elmdale Rd (Map 25 Parcel 3979) (00:01:19 – 00:38:39)**

Applicant: Aris Group, LLC, Representative: Jude Gauvin, Andrews Survey & Engineering  
Project Description: Construction of a roadway, drainage, and gravel removal in the inner and outer riverfront area, bordering land subject to flooding, and the buffer zone to a bordering vegetated wetland.

*\* Mr. Bangma recused himself from the hearing*

**Presentation:** Jude Gauvin, Andrews Survey and Engineering represented the applicant. He provided an overview of the project and changes that have been made since the NOI submittal in Dec 2019. He described the area is basically a big nob of gravel that runs between the West and Blackstone rivers and noted there are 3 certified vernal pools (CVP) on site. Mr. Gauvin displayed draft revised plans and pointed out the updates (drainage areas were moved away from the CVPs; straight grades were replaced with an undulated road; the width of the road was reduced from 26' wide to 24' w/ a 5' sidewalk which minimized the fill area). He provided an overview of the west river flood plain of the West River flood plain crossing (walls on either side and a large culvert).

**Discussion:** Members agreed the revised plan set should be resubmitted to DEP and Graves Engineering for review since the changes are so significant.

There was an inquiry about the construction sequence and Mr. Gauvin described the proposed phasing plan - Phase 1 – build crossing, walls, basin and compensatory storage, execute the first cut (91,000 cu yards of gravel) to get the road to grade and start work on 2 lots; Phases 2 through 5 will each continue to develop portions of the site - remove gravel/flatten out, develop buildable lots, grade and stabilize for winter. Mr. Gauvin said the clearing will occur the initial part of each phase – they do not plan to clear the entire site at once. He provided some detail of erosion control measures and estimated each phase to occur during 1 calendar year. He anticipated having formal plans and details of the phasing for review by the next meeting.

Mr. Holden inquired what considerations were made to ensure the CVPs still have access to their water sources. Mr. Gauvin said the proposed conditions should mimic existing conditions - only the CVPs will be getting water absorbed into the ground from the flat lots instead of run off from the existing steep slopes. Special conditions such as signage were considered by members and the applicant. Mr. Gauvin noted that the permitting will allow for the removal of trash and debris on the river-side leading to betterment of the wetland edge.

**Public Comment:** Audie Coffin, 4 Jodie Circle – inquired about the proposed improvements to Old Elmdale Road so it can accommodate the gravel removal required to develop the site. Mr. Gauvin met with DPW on site and they discussed widening the 16' road to 24' with a 5' sidewalk on the right-hand side. He displayed plans and explained they didn't just choose one side to expand but carefully selected the areas to minimize impact on the wetland edge and the existing homes in the area.

## Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes continued – Monday, October 19, 2020

Steve Kirby, 12 Jodie Circle – inquired about whether the subdivision road would be brought to binder for each phase or left as dirt until the entire project is complete. Mr. Gauvin said he developed the phasing so that once phase 2 is complete there will be buildable lots, but ultimately it is up to the developer. Mr. Kirby asked whether the cleared areas will be hydroseeded and Mr. Gauvin responded they would. Mr. Kirby inquired as to the duration of each phase and Mr. Gauvin said each phase will take 1 year. He said he calculated the 9-10 trucks per day over the course of 50 weeks at 5 days a week for 5 years to complete the required gravel removal.

Steve Matellian, 49 Old Elmdale Road – asked whether the construction of Old Elmdale Road would occur during or before Phase 1 and Mr. Gauvin said it would have to be completed (widened and brought to binder) before Phase 1.

**Motion:** Ms. Steele made a motion to continue the public hearing for DEP312-1096 0 Old Elmdale to the November 2, 2020 meeting of the Conservation Commission. Ms. Cleary seconded, and the motion passed by vote of 3-1-0 (Cleary – aye, Hogan – aye, Holden – nay, Steele – aye).

*\* Mr. Bangma returned to the meeting*

### 2. Notice of Intent (NOI) DEP No. 312-11xx, 50 Depot Street (Map 25 Parcel 1095) (00:38:40 - 00:52:19)

Applicant: Rass Depot, DBA

Representative: Andrews Survey & Engineering

Project Description: The proposed project is the construction of 6 additional storage buildings within the 200 Riverfront.

**Discussion:** Jude Gauvin, Andrews Survey and Engineering represented the applicant. Mr. Gauvin reported that the limit of the 200' riverfront has been flagged. Ms. Grenier visited the site and reported the stakes were good but that she would like to see the flood zone on the plan to determine if any compensation is required. Mr. Gauvin did not think they required any flood zone compensation and displayed a FEMA flood base elevation map. He also provided details of stormwater system design. A DEP number has not yet been assigned. No members of the public commented during the hearing.

**Motion:** Ms. Steele made a motion to continue the public hearing for 50 Depot Street to the November 2, 2020 meeting of the Conservation Commission. Ms. Cleary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by vote of 5-0-0 (Bangma – aye, Cleary – aye, Hogan – aye, Holden – aye, Steele – aye).

### 3. Notice of Intent (NOI) DEP No. 312-11xx, 410 N. Main Street (Map 12D Parcel 0281) (00:52:20 - 00:53:22)

Applicant: Dokkum Realty, LLC

Representative: Allen Engineering Associates, Inc.

Project Description: The proposed project is the construction of a bus repair and maintenance within the 200 Riverfront.

**Discussion:** The applicant requested to continue to the next meeting.

**Motion:** Mr. Bangma made a motion to continue the public hearing for 410 N. Main Street to the November 2, 2020 meeting of the Conservation Commission. Ms. Cleary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by vote of 5-0-0 (Bangma – aye, Cleary – aye, Hogan – aye, Holden – aye, Steele – aye).

## REPORTED/ONGOING VIOLATIONS

### 1. DEP No. 312-1086—Tea Party Drive (00:53:22 – 00:55:38)

- Dale McKinnon, Guerriere and Halnon, attended the meeting with the following update. He visited the site today after weekend rain and did not observe any issues. He noted there is still some water in the basins but there was no stormwater discharge from the site. He reported that the clay dam to has been installed to address the issues with basin 15B.

### 2. DEP No. 312-1022—Forest Glen/Spring Hill Rd (00:55:40 – 00:56:36)

- Ms. Grenier has not received any updates, but noted she was on site and did not observe any sediment washing down.

### 3. 32 Church Street (Item not agenda as it was not anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting) (00:56:57 – 01:01:19)

- Ms. Grenier informed members that the Sherriff's office delivered an Enforcement Order and Troy Wilson contacted her to say he not be addressing it and that DEP is handling it. Ms. Grenier updated Denise Childs, Wetlands Section Chief Mass DEP, who recommended she issue the EO and let her know the outcome. She hoped to have an update for Commissioners during the next meeting.

**Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes continued – Monday, October 19, 2020**

**WETLAND UPDATES/ISSUES (01:01:20 – 01:08:30)**

1. Discussion of site compliance regarding active and expired Orders of Conditions
  - No items to discuss.
2. Discussion of Conservation Database
  - Ms. Grenier described a database tailored to streamline MA Conservation Commissions' workflow and operations. She has used it in several towns and was impressed with the program and its capabilities. The cost is a one-time fee of approximately \$1800 – no yearly fee is required. Members agreed it would be worth having the developer come in for a demonstration and Ms. Grenier agreed to coordinate.

**PROCESSING (01:08:30 – 01:09:12)**

1. Town Charter Review Discussion
  - Discussion completed the prior meeting (10/5/20). Members agreed to remove the item from the agenda.

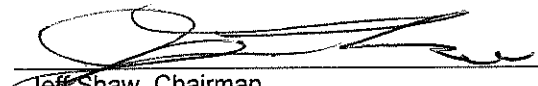
**ANY OTHER BUSINESS, WHICH MAY LAWFULLY COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION (01:09:13 – 01:19:30)**

1. Pout Pond Recreation Committee Update
  - The dumpster has been picked up and Ms. Grenier will follow up w/ Mr. Shaw to ensure the water turn off is scheduled. Mr. Hogan noted the PPRC is holding their final meeting of the season this week.
2. Conservation Restrictions
  - Members discussed whether the Commission should be responsible for the Conservation Restrictions at the Medline and proposed Amazon facilities. The restrictions are currently in development and will be reviewed by the applicant and the Town's Counsel. Ms. Grenier advised favorably due to the CVPs at the sites. Members agreed, as long as the proper procedures are in place, the Commission would be interested.
3. Quaker Street (Item not on agenda as it was not anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting)
  - Mr. Hogan informed members that a CoC request is forthcoming and that they are welcome to visit the site. Ms. Grenier said she is awaiting the as-built and will perform as site visit also.

**ADJOURNMENT-NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR Monday, November 2, 2020**

**Motion:** Ms. Steele moved to adjourn the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conservation Commission. Ms. Cleary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by vote of 5-0-0 (Bangma – aye, Cleary – aye, Hogan – aye, Holden – aye, Steele – aye).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melissa Shelley, Land Use Administrative Assistant

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Shaw, Chairman

