



Environmental Stewardship Department/  
Conservation Commission

City of New Bedford  
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Meeting of  
January 6, 2015  
Brooklawn Senior Center

**Members Present**

John R. Radcliffe, Chairman  
Craig Dixon, Vice Chairman  
Paul Pacheco

**Members Absent**

Dennis Pacheco  
Jacob Gonsalves

**Staff Present**

Agent Sarah Porter  
Sandy Douglas, Administrative Specialist

**HEARINGS:**

Chairman Radcliffe called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. (Continued from 10/7/13, 10/22/13, 11/12/13, 11/26/13, 12/10/13, 1/7/14, 2/8/14, 2/19/14, 3/4/14, 3/19/14, 4/1/14, 4/25/14, 5/6/14, 5/20/14, 6/3/14, 6/17/14, 7/1/14, 7/15/14, 8/5/14, 8/19/14, 9/2/14, 9/16/14, 10/7/14, 10/21/14, 11/4/14, 11/18/14, 12/2/14, 12/16/14) - A Request for Determination of Applicability as filed by Ron Labelle, City of New Bedford Commissioner of Public Infrastructure for property identified as 1350, 1296, 1232, 1216, 1182 & 1174 Sassaquin Avenue, New Bedford (Map 138, Lots 445, 81, 67, 69, 60, 392, and 191) and the Swallow Street and Sassaquin Avenue Rights of Way. Applicant proposes to upgrade the storm water management system in the Buffer Zone. Representative is David Fredette of the Department of Public Infrastructure. **CONTINUED UNTIL END OF MARCH, 2015 PER DPI'S REQUEST.**
2. (Continued from 12/16/17) - A Request for Determination of Applicability as filed by John Fernandes Jr., and Marsha Fernandes for property located at 1219 East Rodney French Boulevard (Map 8, Lot 226). Applicant proposes to reconstruct a porch and stairway in the Velocity Zone of the Coastal Floodplain. Representative is Steven Gioiosa of SITEC, Inc.
3. Ratify Emergency Certification for Stratford Street.

Agent Porter advised the Commission that she issued an Emergency Certification for Stratford Street that was discussed at the last meeting. The Emergency Certification is for the replacement of drainage pipe that was going through someone's garage and it had to be re-routed. DPI has already begun working and has placed the straw waddles out and she has visited the site.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion to ratify the Emergency Certification. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pacheco. All in favor. Motion carries.

## **CONTINUED HEARINGS:**

1. (Continued from 12/2/14 & 12/16/14) – (SE49-0711) - A Notice of Intent as filed by **Ronald Labelle, Commissioner of Public Infrastructure for the City of New Bedford for property known as the Sawyer Street Outfall (Map 93, Lot 265)**. Applicant proposes to install a tide gate in the existing Combined Sewer Overflow which discharges into the Acushnet River. Representative is Danielle Gallant of CDM Smith. **CONTINUED**

## **NEW HEARINGS:**

1. **SE49-0712 - A Notice of Intent as filed by Erick D’Leon, Manager of the New Bedford Regional Airport for property identified as 1569 Airport Road (Map 122, Lot 3; Map 123, Lot 3; Map 124, Lot 28 & Map 125, Lot 22)**. Applicant proposes to reconstruct Taxiway A in the Buffer Zone with temporary impacts to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands for construction access. **Representative is Amanda Atwell of Epsilon Associates.**

Ms. Amanda Atwell of Epsilon Associates was present together with Erick D’Leon the New Bedford Airport Manager, Matthew Elia, Assistant Airport Manager, Mike Howard of Epsilon and Rich Lasdin of Airport Solutions Group.

Ms. Atwell advised that the owner of this property is the City of New Bedford and this project is for the reconstruction of a taxiway in the buffer zone. There is very minimal, temporary BVW impact and they are proposing to refill the taxiway and do some upgrades to the stormwater management system. It is proposed that this project will be done in two phases. Runway 5/23 is the primary runway so runway 1432 would need to stay open through the entire project.

Ms. Atwell stated that Agent Porter had advised that it was difficult to read the wetland flags on the plan and they have made some slight tweaks to the stormwater mostly invert elevations and slight minor grading along the vegetated swale.

Ms. Atwell advised that the wetlands have been delineated. The wetland lines were accepted as part of the 2003 variance for runway 523 safety improvements project and said variance is still valid. There is a vegetation management plan that is actively being utilized by the airport.

Ms. Atwell informed the Commission that they have corresponded with Natural Heritage and they have not heard back from them.

The Massachusetts Aeronautics Division did a survey of all general aviation airports for asphalt and concrete and they rated this taxiway to be poor to fair condition. It’s relatively old and has a lot of cracks. The project proposes to remove the asphalt and replace it with bituminous concrete. Improvements to the stormwater management system are proposed together with erosion controls along the length of the project on the wetland side and along the entire gate of the contractor’s staging. An access way on a dirt road for the contractor’s staging area is also being proposed.

Ms. Atwell stated that the current taxiway is paved and by current FAA Standards it asks for a separation between existing aprons and existing taxiways so engineering has placed grass in between for physical and visual separation and it ultimately decreases the impervious area by 6,400 s.f. The stormwater improvements are vegetated filter strips and they will be adding additional vegetated islands and filter strips. It is also proposed to upgrade some headwalls that lead into drainage ditch. The proposed headwalls are to be 10' on either side of temporary impact.

Ms. Atwell advised that the once all construction is complete, the swamp mats will be removed and the area will be restored and seeded with wetland seed mix, if necessary. They will also do culvert protection.

Agent Porter advised that she spoke to Amanda and asked for the plans to show the wetland boundary which has been submitted. Agent Porter suggested that for alterations to the BVW that swamp mats be used and that upon removal of the swamp mats any ruts in the BVW be smoothed out with rake and to use wetland seed mix if necessary. Agent Porter was concerned with the truck washing area on Shawmut Avenue and the proximity to the wetland area. But they are proposing compost filter socks as erosion control/filtration to run along the edge and she was satisfied with that.

Chairman Radcliffe inquired as to the length of time it would take to complete this work and how much exposure there would be to the affected area. Mr. Elia replied that it would take approximately four months and construction would begin in mid July. The project is based on Federal and State funding.

Ms. Atwell added that the project will be done in phases and the first and second phase will take approximately 60 days each.

Chairman Radcliffe inquired as to why there was a temporary and regular staging area being proposed. Ms. Atwell replied that they did not want to put the contractor's trailer and some of the long term items near the active apron and didn't think there would be enough room to have everything staged in one area.

Chairman Radcliffe advised that this Commission will need to have Natural Heritage's response prior to issuing an order.

Agent Porter stated that they will have to place the wetland flags back up prior to commencing work. Agent Porter inquired if there is alteration to the bank for the replacement of the culvert.

Mr. Mike Howard replied that the bank is the mean high water and it's towards the top of the slope and will be working towards the upper part of the traditional bank and the regulatory bank is closer to the water. Agent Porter inquired whether rip rap will be placed once it is repaired.

Mr. Rich Lasdin replied that he had requested assistance and guidance on this from Epsilon on how to treat the lower side of the outlet because they are not allowed to place rip rap at the bottom of the stream and are still trying to figure out how to treat it other having some erosion control matting or a temporary stabilizer.

Agent Porter advised the Commission that if they would like to submit this application for stormwater review that they cannot use Nitsch Engineering because they are the surveyors on this project.

Chairman Radcliffe and the Commission agreed that they do not see a need to send this application for review.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion to table this matter to the next meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pacheco. All in favor. Motion carries.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. Agent Updates**

#### **PALMER'S ISLAND**

Agent Porter advised that there is an Order of Condition for the pathways and the signs and have been awarded additional \$19,000.00 from the Bouchard Oil spill for restoration of the access pathways. It is proposed to place post and rope along the trails. Agent Porter inquired whether the Commission would like an amended order filed for the additional work. The pathway will stay as approved; there is approximately 200' of pathway where they will place post and rope. DPI would be doing the work and the posts would be done by the skilled masons and are proposing to dig smaller holes, put in pipe and then attach post to pipe.

Chairman Radcliffe did not feel it was necessary to file an amended order for the additional work. The Commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Dixon suggested that they submit a narrative of the proposed work for the file. The Commission agreed and that they would review it at the next meeting.

### **2. Draft Sassaquin Pond Watershed Ordinance**

Agent Porter advised that Scott Turner has offered to come before the Commission and discuss the Watershed Ordinance.

The Commission agreed that it would be best for him to be at a meeting when all the Commissioners are present.

### **3. General Correspondence**

State Ethics Test <http://www.muniprogram.eth.state.ma.us/>

Sandy Douglas advised the Commissioners that once they have completed the test online to please print out the Certification at the end and forward it to her so that she may file it with the Personnel Office.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Dixon at approximately 7:15 pm. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pacheco. All in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Douglas  
Administrative Specialist

DRAFT