GOSNOLD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

February 19, 2021

1:00 pm via Zoom

Present:

Conservation Commission: David Warr, Chairman; Leo Roy, Jay Merriam, Michael Parker,

Lisa Wright

Also in attendance: Nat Barry, Gail Blout, Mike Campagnone, Paula DiMare, Seymour DiMare, Sarah Ellis Lerner, David Frothingham, Seth Garfield, Philip Houha, Maria, Mike Milanoski, Carolyn Nunes, Ned Prevost, Kate Parker, Joshua Ray, Rich Ricco-Field, Catherine Ricks, Nancy Wilder

The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Warr at 1:05 pm.

Order of Business:

* Approval of December 11, 2020 Minutes
* Hearing on a NOI for Stormwater Drainage Improvements and Roadway Repair
* Discussion of Church’s Beach NOI
* Prevost Driveway
* Adjournment

1. **GCC December 11, 2020 Minutes**

*Leo Roy made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 11, 2020 meeting as drafted. Jay Merriam seconded the motion.*

*Four Commission Members voted in favor of the motion, there was one abstention. The motion was carried.*

1. **Hearing on a NOI for Stormwater Drainage Improvements and Road Repair**

David Warr opened the hearing asking that Catherine Ricks, Foth Company, speaking for the Town of Gosnold, review the project as presented in the 130+ page NOI for Stormwater Drainage Improvements and Road Repair. Catherine’s review highlighted the project’s plan on Tower Hill Road, Broadway and down to the 4 Corners Intersection site which includes:

* Improved roadway stormwater drainage, cleaning the existing drainage system, regrading Tower Hill Road, and repaving Tower Hill Road, Broadway and 4 Corners.
* On Tower Hill Road drainage will be improved by adding scuppers along the stone wall on the south side in the bottom of the wall, reset the catch basin rims, clean out the catch basins and add ripraps on the south side where there are openings in the wall
* Tower Hill Road will be regraded to the south side so that the stormwater runoff will be going to the south side to the open land and not towards the houses on the north side.
* The area of Tower Hill Road where the Town Hall, Church and School are will be graded so that the stormwater will go into the large catch basin at the end.
* On Broadway the existing catch basins will be cleaned, catch basin rims will be reset, 5 new deep sunk catch basins along Broadway and a new CDS structure and outlet at the 4 Corners intersection
* Cut and cap existing drainpipe going into the Frog Pond
* Install new pipeline to new catch basin and flows down to 4 Corners Intersection
* Construct new berm along western side of roadway to have stormwater flow stay along Broadway reducing the sediment and debris that has been going into the Frog Pond.
* At the 4 Corners Intersection there is land subject to Coastal Storm Flowage and there is the buffer to the salt marsh. The impact is 50 square feet of permanent impact to the land subject to Coastal Storm Flowage. However, to install the new structures it requires removing the road and installing the new pipes and structures. There will be about 5,300 square feet of temporary impact to that area.

Based on the DEP Best Management Practices for Stormwater Flows there is a recommendation for

* Street sweeping
* Cleaning out catch basins and
* Cleaning out CDS structure

Which includes

* A Street Sweeping Truck and
* A Vacuum Truck for cleaning out the CDS

Options that are more manageable for the Island are attachments that go onto tractors or bobcats. The attachments sweep the street, reducing the amount of sediment getting into the catch basins and reducing the frequency of needing to clean the catch basins.

For the CDS, an option for the Vacuum Truck includes pads that absorb the oils sitting on top of the water in the CDS. The pads remove the oil and then the water can be extracted by using smaller vacuum sumps to clean out the rest of the CDS.

The project also includes a proposed water treatment for the CDS to reduce the potential for debris, sediment and poisons to enter Cuttyhunk Pond. This will benefit the water quality and the salt marsh habitat.

David Warr asked if the CDS pictured in the proposal was what is to be installed. Catherine responded that the CDS size is based on the water flow expected at Cuttyhunk. Mike Campagone stated that the CDS sized for this project is the smaller or smallest model that is required and is basically the same size as the manhole. The way the system works is that the water swirls in the CDS allowing the sediment to fall to the bottom while the oil stays on the top. The water flows out of the CDS from the middle leaving the sediment on the bottom and the oil on the top. The danger is that if the maintenance is not done on the system and there is a big spill, the oil in the top of the CDS could make it out. This is why there is a maintenance and operation requirement on all of the stormwater drainage system.

Michael Parker asked how effective is this system in reducing the silt flow into Cuttyhunk Pond? Mike Campagnone responded that typically the units are designed to meet 90%-95% TSS removal which is more than the 80% required. Rich Ricco-Field added that the CDS unit in itself provides about 85% TSS and the deep sunk catch basins that the stormwater flows through before it gets to the CDS and provides another 25% TSS removal. So those two, in combination with street sweeping on annual basis, puts the system well over the State’s Stormwater Management Policy of 80% TSS removal requirement.

The catch basins are typically inspected twice a year for cleaning and the CDS unit has more specific requirements, including inspections twice a year. The leeching catch basin on Tower Hill Road is included in the Operations and Maintenance (O&M.) It should get inspected more frequently, once a month, to ensure there is not extensive sediment build up that would reduce the capacity of that structure.

MDP: Would a larger CDS system give more protection from siltation into Cuttyhunk Pond?

RRF: Yes, but when the CDS get bigger the cost goes up much more although the treatment does not increase more than what the proposed unit accomplishes. This size unit provides the best level of sediment collection for the cost involved. It is a 5’ diameter structure that was sized for this 5’ manhole which is standard for this set up.

The intent of the regrade on Tower Hill Road is to redirect the water flow to the south through the scuppers in the wall to the riprap sections. The water would come off of the road before it gets to Broadway.

MDP: Is there a circumstance under which water would get into the system on Broadway?

RRF: Not if the Leeching Catch Basin is maintained properly as there is only a small amount of water coming from Tower Hill Road between the Town Hall and Broadway going to the Leeching Catch Basin. Most of the water coming down Broadway is originating on Broadway from the top of the hill running down to where it enters the Cuttyhunk Pond.

Leo Roy asked if Foth could provide the Commission with the specifications and cost for the bobcat attachments for street sweeping and pull behind vac units, which is equipment the Town does not own and would need to acquire. Also, is there room in the estimated grant funding to provide for the acquisition of that equipment?

Catherine acknowledged that they are looking at the options for equipment, the cost and if it is possible to include that cost in the grant.

Next Leo asked about the hydrology of the Frog Pond once the proposed changes to the drainage is diverted from going into and out of the Frog Pond. Will the changes contribute to a potential Pond flooding impact?

A discussion followed concerning the history of the Frog Pond overflowing, its current drainage situation, past efforts to correct the problem and restore the Pond, the cost of correcting the problems and whether or not to address the issues with the current Stormwater Drainage Improvements and Road Repair project.

Philip Houha mentioned the chronic flooding that frequently occurs whenever it rains at the driveway entrance that he shares with the Berrys and The Buzzard Bay Coalition. His concern is that the flooding may be exacerbated by the proposed scuppers channeling more water to the area of concern.

Catherine responded that the addition of the scuppers from the west end of Tower Hill Road plus the cleaning out of the existing blocked catch basins should divert the water as it comes down Tower Hill and correct the flooding problem.

Michael Parker suggested a larger re-charge structure. Catherine thought it could definitely be considered as it wouldn’t impact any wetland resource area and could be included in the plan.

Leo Roy, to respond to the outfall question of the Frog Pond, suggested that he would support the installation of an additional catch basin at that location to address the Frog Pond outflow as part of this project.

Seymour DiMare offered the suggestion that the Frog Pond could be made a fire retention pond. It would require a liner and a hydrant. They work very well and the government pays for it.

Michael Parker suggested to continue the hearing to the next GCC meeting, March 12, 2021, so that the GCC can see the proposed changes not only the one that Mr. Roy brought up with respect to the outfall pipe but also to see the possibilities of a recharge structure up on the Tower Hill Road as well as Mr. Roy’s question as to the cost of the street sweeper and the vacuum system and blending it into the project.

Mike Campagnone noted that the GCC does have the right to include the cost of the maintenance equipment in the Order of Conditions, but once it is in there, then it must be done. Also any structure that works to collect sediment do eventually have to be cleaned out. There are ways of performing the maintenance without purchasing a $30,000 vacuum truck.

*Michael Parker made a motion to continue this hearing to the next GCC meeting to allow the applicant to provide the details with respect to 1) the connection between the Frog Pond and the drain line, 2) the potential use of a larger recharge area near the Houha driveway and 3) to see from the engineers what the costs are of the additional equipment they recommend for the street sweeping and vacuum pump. Jay Merriam seconded the motion.*

*Three Commission Members voted in favor of the motion, there was one vote against. The motion was carried.*

Catherine Ricksrequested to that a draft of the Order of Conditions be available at the next meeting so that it could be voted on as the grant for this project must be used by June 30th Gail Blout requested the GCC meet on March 5th if all the requested information was available.

The next meeting of the GCC will be March 5th.

1. **Church’s Beach NOI**

Gail Blout requested additional time as she only received the Order of Conditions and needs time to review it. It was noted that the Order of Conditions is based on Fisheries & Wildlife Conditions which was inserted in their letter, the GCC already met and decided on this matter so it can be signed today on their earlier vote. Gail agreed to get back to the GCC once she has reviewed the Order of Conditions

1. **Prevost Driveway**

Ned Prevost presented that in the past to drive to their house they have driven from Cemetery Road, across the Hornbach property, across the Wilson property to their driveway which is in front of their house. Ned requests permission to use a right of way road (after crossing on the Hornbach property) which is below the path running across the Wilson property that they have been using and then up a steep incline to their property. Ned’s question is whether or not the work that they wish to do in constructing the driveway requires the approval of the GCC.

David Warr suggested that Ned file a Request for Determination Applicability (RDA). The form is available on the Mass DEP Website and it is the process to ask the GCC if the statute applies to the work that is planned. Leo Roy asked that Ned include a narrative of the work being proposed as well as pictures of the existing conditions. The RDA should be addressed to the GCC and sent to Lisa Wright, Town Clerk (gosnoldtownclerk@yahoo.com) by Sunday, February 28th so that it can be posted in the newspaper 5 days before the Hearing on March 5, 2021.

The next meeting will be March 5, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Parker