

The site walk was hosted by the Planning Board with the Conservation Commission in attendance.

Case # 22-002-SUB Map 11, Lot 3, 100 Smoke Street, proposed four (4) lot subdivision by Concrete Products of Londonderry, 87 Haverhill Road, Amesbury, MA.

Conservation Commission Members Present: Sam Demeritt, Chair, Debra Kimball, Vice Chair, Cheryl Smith, Dallas Huggins, Susan Mooney, Secretary.

Planning Board Members Present: Charlene Andersen, Sandra Jones, Alternate, Robert (Buzz) Davies, Alternate.

Others Present: Blair Haney, Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) Circuit Rider, Therese Thompson, Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC), Chris York, Millennium Engineers, representing the Applicant.

The proposed subdivision is of interest to the Commission because it fronts the Little River, a NH Protected River per Chapter 483, RSA 483: 15 I.(a)(5). The property contains floodplain and two wetlands; The parcel also includes highly ranked habitat and supporting landscape for wildlife identified by the NH Fish and Game Wildlife Action Plan. Additionally, the parcel is located in an aquifer zone and thus all lots are required by town ordinance to be a minimum of three (3) acres.

The Commission had previously submitted a letter to the Board re: this application dated July 12, 2022, with the above concerns and requested a site walk.

Mrs. Mooney led the walk and Ms. Andersen took notes.

Mr. York had not previously walked the parcel and, of the others present, Mrs. Mooney and Mr. Demeritt had separately walked the parcel several years ago at the request of a previous property owner and the present owner, Shea Concrete, respectfully.

Mr. York brought along a map that showed the features of the landscape and the location of some of the flagging. In hand members had the plan proposals for the four lots and the wildlife areas noted by NH F&G Action Plan.

At the road front participants introduced themselves. Mrs. Mooney reviewed the original proposal of four rectangular lots fronting Smoke Street. Because the frontage for Lot 4 would not be suitable for a driveway, nor building envelope due to the set back from the river, the identified flood plain and ledge rock steep slopes, the plan was altered to site the house location for Lot 4 behind Lots 1,2, and 3. This alteration proposes that a driveway for Lot 4 would run between two of the other lots.

From Smoke Street the party entered the parcel walking over a large sand pile that was mined in the past. A review by Mark West, wetland scientist, at the Commission meeting of July 11, 2022, indicated no evidence of turtle nesting, nor wildlife significance at this mined site. We walked straight back following the proposed driveway for Lot 4, to be located between the wetlands that flow, one to the south, the other to the north, to the Little River. Wetland plants were noted in both areas including peat moss. We did not venture westerly any further than the wetland divergence, back tracking to the sand pile and walking northerly to the Little River, just west of the Smoke Street bridge. The flood plain noted as was the ledge rock wall to the south of the plain. This area would support high wildlife useage and thus its preservation and protection from human disturbance should be an important consideration.

The site walk adjourned at 5:50 PM.

The Commission is grateful to Ms. Thompson, Mr. Haney, and Mr. York and to all Commission and Board members for their participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on August 8, 2022.