

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES

February 12, 2014

7:30 P.M.

Employee Lounge, Town Hall

Chairman Riccardo called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M

Commission Members Present: Vickie Riccardo, Wynne Shapiro, Rick Rohr, Alan Armstrong, and Eric Joosten

Staff: Jacobson

Court Reporter: Syat

Ms. Riccardo called the public hearing to order:

EPC-46-2013, Darien Athletic Foundation, 80 High School Lane, proposing conversion of existing natural turf fields to synthetic turf, and enlarge existing detention basin within an upland review area. The site is shown on Assessor's Map #9 as Lot #'s 80 &81.

Joe Canas, P.E., and Certified Floodplain Manager, Tighe & Bond, represented the Applicant.

Ms. Riccardo noted for the record that she and Mr. Armstrong attended the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting on this application. She said she provided links to the DEEP report on turf fields that were discussed at that meeting. Mr. Canas provided copies of the DEEP report.

Ms. Riccardo asked Mr. Canas to review the open items from the Redniss & Mead letter.

Mr. Canas said that in response to item #2 they converted the datum used to the 1988 datum. He said they re-designed the field to the more stringent flood boundary.

In response to item #3, he said they used the original ground survey. He said the 2009 flood study was based on the Town Topo which is not as accurate. Mr. Flaherty said the goal is not to place fill in the floodplain and reduce storage. He said he would be more comfortable with additional ground survey data.

In response to item #16, Mr. Canas said they can provide a clay layer to insure the basin keeps the basin a wet basin and they have made a minor change in the outlet to hold more water.

Mr. Canas said that the grab sample locations described in item #7 can be moved. He said they will add a rip rap apron in response to the concern described in item #11 that there will be increase flow velocities/

Mr. Flaherty said they will review new drawings and supporting calculations when they receive them.

Mr. Canas said they will modify the Erosion & Sediment Control Plans to be more specific and include phases, in response to item #21. He said they will add additional details to sheet C-7 in response to item #21. He said they will provide a landscape plan in response to item #22. He said the detention basin will be a wet pond with a sediment forebay.

Ms. Riccardo asked who will be responsible for maintenance. Mr. Canas said he will prepare a maintenance plan or the Board of Education.

Mr. Flaherty asked about tree removal. Mr. Canas said the grading has been revised to avoid impact to the trees in the upland review area. He said there is a tree in the detention basin which has to be removed.

Mr. Rohr asked about item #12 regarding routing flow through the stone under the fields. Mr. Canas said they have maximized the detention capacity of the stone. Mr. Rohr asked if they will be adding to the peak flow to the brook. Mr. Flaherty said they will not be adding to the peak flow.

Mr. Armstrong asked if diverting flow would contribute to starving the wetland of water. Mr. Canas said there would still be ground water infiltration and there is a significant watershed area still contributing. Mr. Jacobson said the concern would be during low flow periods, and the large upstream watershed contributes to the ground water discharge feeding the wetland.

Mr. Canas discussed the 2010 DEEP study of turf fields and water quality. He said that Zinc was the metal the DEEP had concerns about. He said the report recommends the use of infiltration and wet ponds for treatment, which they are doing.

Ms. Shapiro asked about thermal pollution. Mr. Canas said the first flush will be retained and infiltrated after which the fields cool off with the rain. He said the water is further cooled in the pond which has enough volume for water quality treatment.

Ms. Shapiro asked about the increase in impervious surface area. Mr. Canas said there will be an additional 11,000 square feet of walkways which he included in his hydrologic analysis. Ms. Shapiro asked if they considered a porous pavement. He said they did not consider porous asphalt because it would be difficult to find a plant to make a small batch.

Mr. Flaherty said that porous asphalt or porous concrete would be difficult to install in a long and linear sidewalk. He said pavers would not be ADA compatible. He said the water will reach the edges of the 5 foot wide sidewalk and flow onto the turf and be able to infiltrate.

Mr. Armstrong asked Mr. Jacobson to address a comment from the previous hearing regarding wildlife impacts. Mr. Jacobson said the statute regarding impacts to wildlife in the upland review area would require evidence of a physical impact to the wetland as a result of an impact which would not apply to the conversion of a low quality grass field to artificial turf.

Ms. Riccardo opened the hearing to public comment.

Cheryl Russell, 17 Holly Lane asked for clarification of the 50 foot and 100 foot upland review area. Mr. Canas pointed the areas out on the plan.

Mr. Russell asked where the water from the fields will go. Mr. Canas said the water will discharge in the same place as it does now. He said they will add riprap at the discharge point.

Ms. Russell asked about zinc discharge to the Stony Brook. Mr. Flaherty said the water quality measures to reduce zinc are referenced in the DEEP report. Mr. Canas said the water quality treatment measures being proposed are consistent with the 2004 DEEP Storm Water Quality Manual.

Mr. Riccardo asked if the DAF considered other underlayment components. Tom Seiler, DAF, said they are evaluating different products and would like to come up with an eco-friendly solution.

Ms. Russell said it is important to recognize impacts on the stream. She asked about maintenance of the stormwater basins.

Mr. Rohr asked if the Board of Ed is aware that they are responsible for maintenance. Mr. Canas said yes.

Jen Montanaro, DAF, said they have discussed the concerns about past maintenance problems with the Board of Ed. Mr. Canas said they have designed the basins to be easier to maintain.

Ms. Russell said she is concerned about 11,000 square feet of new impervious coverage. She showed photographs of runoff and discolored water from previous construction at the high school.

Mr. Rohr said that third party inspections will be required and the DEEP permit will also require inspections. Mr. Canas said they are required to make weekly inspections and monitor turbidity. Mr. Rohr asked what would trigger action from turbidity. Mr. Canas said there are limits that, if exceeded, would require additional measures.

Mr. Rohr asked if the applicant could check the infill for heavy metals prior to installation. Mr. Canas said they will look into the infill and sources used in other places.

The Commission continued the hearing until March 5.

Mr. Joosten made a motion to approve the minutes of January 22 as amended. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. Mr. Rohr and Mr. Joosten abstained.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rohr seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Jacobson
Environmental Protection Officer