

the wetland resources were proposed . Graziano seconded and the motion was voted to approve 4-0. Ayes; Pilz, Graziano, Hengen, and Harrington, vote Ney: none.

3. 2050 Plainfield Pike – RIDEM appl. no. OCTA12-029; 45 day NOTICE: proposed vehicle storage expansion: Commission received NOTICE dated 17 Jan. 2013 from DEM, requesting permission to alter freshwater wetlands. The applicant’s submitted project plans were reviewed and discussed. This site is occupied by DSD Enterprises, LLC, an existing automotive repair and associated (lot 116) sales operation in place. Proposed area of development is at the rear of the building. A site visit was performed by S. Pilz with site observations described and included in the discussion. Proposed development would occur within a wooded wetland <3 acres that is situated to the rear of the lot. This wetland continues onto the adjacent lot to the west. There is no perimeter wetland as DEM does not require a 50 ft. perimeter wetland for wetland areas <3 acres. Currently, stormwater flow from the rooftop and rear building pavement areas enters the wetland as well as an intermittent stream channel and area subject to storm flow (ASSF) 2 and ASSF3. Storm flow then enters an existing 48” concrete headwall within a 20ft. drainage easement. The storm flow then flows into an existing 48’ RCP culvert beneath Sailor Way, discharging into an open grassed swale in the lot east of the site. The wetland and adjacent vegetation is densely vegetated with hydric soil species. The wetland currently functions to absorb and retain stormwater flow, recharges groundwater table, protects from flooding, provides natural habitat, provides a natural wetland resource, and provides water quality filtering. The proposed vehicle storage expansion area also includes a sediment forebay and bioretention area. This development would require clearing of trees and vegetation, excavation, and filling of the wetland. There is no avoidance or minimization of wetland alteration. There is no alternative layout proposed. There is no compliance to the City Code 17-84.070C4a requiring a 5 ft. minimum perimeter landscape buffer proposed along the west property line of the development area. The proposed clearing of natural trees and vegetation for the forebay and bioretention area would remove the natural landscape buffer and screening of vehicle parking/storage from Sailor Way. This development would result in a negative impact to the wetland’s ability to recharge groundwater, protect from flooding, and to replace habitat lost from vegetative cutting. Though the applicant’s pre development flow vs. the post development flow calculations indicate a negligible 1-10-25 yr. storm decrease and 100 yr. storm increase, the natural wetland feature is sacrificed by alteration to achieve such results. This is a very sensitive area that contributes to the watershed of the upper most beginning point of the Meshanticut Brook. Motion by Pilz to reply with a DISAPPROVAL of the project due to significant alteration of the existing wooded wetland, a negative impact to habitat, groundwater recharge, and flood protection resulting; with no alternative mitigation proposed; no avoidance or minimization; and no compliance to the City perimeter landscape buffer code. Harrington seconded and it was voted to approve the motion 4-0. Vote Ayes: Pilz, Graziano, Hengen, and Harrington, vote Nay; none.
4. Arbor Day Tree Planting Project 2013: R. DeGrandpre will speak to the Parks Department to inquire if there is a need to plant or re-plant park trees. An actual tree planting project is still in discussion.
5. City Tree Inventory Initiative: discussion deferred to next month
6. M. Hengen discussed his involvement with Johnson & Wales University environmental related projects and Pawtucket River Authority clean-up project in late April. Pending further information, the Commission may participate to benefit / coordinate a City project.
7. City Budget: Group 1305 Care of Trees / #54501 Planting of Trees \$10,000: discussion for recommendations and or a project deferred to next meeting.

VII. Subjects that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate within 48 hours of this meeting: None.

VIII. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Piz. Graziano seconded at 8:35 pm and voted to approve motion 4-0.

IX. Next Meeting: 26 March 2013 @ 6:30 pm