

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, December 30, 2021

Location: Town Hall

Attendees: Carol Mamczak, Sean Radcliffe, Scott Hecker, Mike Madden, Cathy Joly

Absent: Adie Krulis, Lincoln Geiger

Started at 7:14 pm

1. We discussed the questions and comments posed by Barbara Richter, director of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions, in her email (attached) regarding the seep on the Holt property. The discussion resulted in the following questions and concerns:
 - We are concerned that this seep may be connected to the stratified drift aquifer which is nearby. Kent had mentioned digging a hole near the northernmost driveway and it promptly began filling with water. Part of the seep is within the proposed drainage basin, so we are concerned about the risk of spoiling the aquifer from contaminants in the runoff which will be directed to this basin.
 - How will water runoff be managed? Is salt-spreading equipment washed on site?
 - On the site plan, there appear to be two culverts in the drainage basin: one heads north under the proposed driveway and the other heads south. Are these culverts draining water from, or directing water into, the basin? Is the basin natural, or is it manmade, and of what materials? Why is this considered an “isolated wetland”? We are happy that the proposed berm will prevent road salt from draining into the basin.
 - Given the potential contaminants in the drainage basin, what is the risk to the nearby wells: the drilled well on the Holt property, the town well across the road which supplies water to the village, and the well of the neighbor to the south on Rt 45? What type of wells are these, and how deep are they?
 - The site plan proposes partially filling in the seep to accommodate the driveway. If part of the seep is filled in, will another seep appear elsewhere on the property?
 - Where will the leach field be located on the property?

In summary, given the proximity of the stratified drift aquifer and the need to protect our drinking water supplies, we recommend that a hydrogeologist be consulted as part of the engineering study for the Holt property. We look forward to receiving answers to the above questions.

The group adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.

Attachments:

1) Email from Barbara Richter

From: Barbara Richter <Barbara@nhacc.org>

Date: December 13, 2021 at 11:54:49 AM EST

To: Cathy Joly <cathyjoly@icloud.com>

Subject: Re: Question about protecting stratified drift aquifer

Hi Cathy,

I would check your town's aquifer protection ordinance (according to your website it appears this has passed).

https://www.templenh.org/sites/g/files/vyhli5071/f/file/file/aquifer_protection_final.pdf

Is this area in the Aquifer Protection Overlay District map?

This regulation specifically mentions salt storage is prohibited so you should be working with the planning board to make sure this ordinance is followed.

DES has a salt storage fact sheet that might help you with some questions

<https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2020-01/dwgb-22-30.pdf>

This fact sheet recommends:

The facility should be located in an area that is not environmentally sensitive. **Avoid areas where there are wells, reservoirs, or within the footprint of stratified-drift aquifers.**

Does the seep connect to any drinking water supplies?

DES has a good model ordinance on groundwater protection: <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/wd-06-41.pdf>

It would also be a good idea to follow DES recommendations and best practices.

<https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2020-01/dwgb-22-4.pdf>

You may want to review the stormwater management of the site. Will all runoff be going into this seep?

Typically, DES recommends keeping runoff on site when possible but if this impacts the aquifer it may not be the best solution.

Here is another good article on protecting groundwater

<https://www.nhmunicipal.org/town-city-article/protecting-groundwater-resources>

If you feel that the salt storage has the potential to contaminate drinking water or groundwater supplies then it would be a good idea to get a licensed hydrogeologist to look at the site. You can also contact the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau at (603) 271-2513 or dwgbinfo@des.nh.gov or visit the website at www.des.nh.gov.

--

Barbara Richter, Executive Director
NH Association of Conservation Commissions