



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**7 MAIN STREET
WHITINSVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 01588
Telephone: (508) 234-0817
FAX: (508) 234-0814**

Meeting Minutes July 28, 2010

Wyatt Mills, Bill Freer, Terry Bradley and Cheryl Peckham were present. Andrew Chagnon was late. Barbara Kinney, Administrative Assistant, was also present.

Mr. Mills opened the meeting at 7:07PM.

REORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION

This was tabled to the next meeting.

Citizen's Forum

Mr. Rose from 52 Shannon Drive stated that water pools around the stonewall that runs along side his property and would like to know how to resolve the issue because it floods their yard in the Spring. This is not in a jurisdictional area so there is no need for them to come before the Conservation Commission for that issue. The Conservation Commission is not sure what to suggest because it is natural pooling. Mr. Chagnon stated that they could do some minor grading as long as no more water flows onto the neighbors properties. If the water flows onto the open space, it may not be a concern because according to the plans, the water was intended to go there anyway.

However, there is also encroachment onto the Town of Northbridge Open Space that is under the Conservation Commission's jurisdiction and in answer to the letter sent by the Conservation Commission, Mr. Rose would like to know how to correct the encroachment. He stated that they are just continuing to maintain the yard that is there since they bought the house. A Conservation Commission member told Mr. Rose he should maintain a 25 foot buffer which is about 75 feet back from the deck. Ms. Peckham will contact Mr. Jewell because he was handling this while he was on the Conservation Commission and then Ms. Peckham will also visit the site before making any recommendations on how to correct the issues.

(03-RDA-2010) 550 Benson Road (Map 23, Parcel 59)

Proposed fill of rip rap rock in an area to stop further erosion of brook bank and yard caused by rains with thatching of existing grass, bringing in loam and

reseeding. The applicant is Francine Lapierre, 550 Benson Road, Northbridge, MA 01534.

Mr. Freer, Mr. Chagnon and Mr. Mills attended the site walk. Mr. Chagnon stated that erosion is happening and is concerned with moving the rocks because it may cause water issues elsewhere on the property or on the neighbors' property. The area has grass right to the stream bank. It was suggested to do some plantings along the bank to better stabilize the area. Some conditions of the approval should be that any fill installed cannot narrow the stream channel, a row of hay bales should be installed along the main bank when the yard is loamed and seeded. They can be removed once the grass is established.

Motion made by Mr. Chagnon and seconded by Mr. Bradley. The Conservation Commission voted 5-0 to issue a negative determination with the conditions stated above and the Conservation Commission needs to be notified for an inspection before the area is loamed and seeded and once the hay bales have been installed.

Ms. Lapierre asked in what order things should be done and the Conservation Commission stated that the order is as follows: rip rap rock placed, shrubs planted, install hay bales, call the Conservation Commission for an inspection, and then loam and seed.

(248-573) The Camelot (Map 16, Parcel 28)

Proposed construction of a roadway, infrastructure and associated amenities for a 65 lot residential subdivision located off Hill Street and Hillcrest Road. The applicant is J & F Marinella Development Corporation represented by Heritage Design Group, 1 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588.

Motion made by Mr. Bradley and seconded by Mr. Freer. The Conservation Commission voted 4-0-1 (Mr. Chagnon abstained) to continue the Public Hearing to September 8, 2010 at 7:10PM per the applicant's request.

(NCCP201001) 305 Goldthwaite Road (Map 7, Parcel 82)

Proposed improvements and upgrades to an existing church building and parking lot within 100 feet of a wetland. The applicant is Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church represented by Yerka Engineering, LLC, 128 West Hartford Avenue, Uxbridge, MA 01569.

Mr. Freer, Mr. Chagnon and Mr. Mills were present at the site walk. At the site walk, the Conservation Commission members noticed that there are grass clippings left onsite. The Conservation Commission asked that the clippings be removed and the landscapers will remove them per Mike Yerka. He also stated that in the future, they will be taken offsite and not left there.

Mr. Yerka stated that the phasing for the next year will be the addition to the back of the building and finish the landscaping area in the front. The parking area in the back will probably be done about six to seven years in the future. Per Mr. Yerka, regarding the 35 foot setback area something can be done for the parking spots. They can possibly be eliminated or use permeable pavers since they are not used every day. The applicant stated the 24 foot access to the other parking area would create problems if modified and they are requesting a waiver on this.

Mr. Chagnon stated that the addition is outside the buffer zone so Conservation Commission approval is not needed. Mr. Mills reminded Mr. Yerka it is a 35 foot no disturb zone and not a buffer zone and that permitting is valid only for three years so they would need to come back for the parking again anyway if it is done more than three years in the future. The Conservation Commission would like to see the phasing plan anyway. Mr. Yerka will provide a copy for the file consisting of a letter with drawing(s).

Motion made by Mr. Chagnon and seconded by Mr. Freer. The Conservation Commission voted 5-0 to continue the Public Meeting to September 8, 2010 at 7:05PM.

The Conservation Commission reviewed the draft comments regarding Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church that will be sent to the Planning Board.

Minutes

March 24, 2010

Motion made by Mr. Chagnon and seconded by Ms. Peckham. The Conservation Commission voted 3-0-2 (Mr. Bradley and Mr. Freer abstained) to approve the minutes of March 24, 2010 with changes.

March 24, 2010 (Executive Session)

Motion made by Mr. Chagnon and seconded by Ms. Peckham. The Conservation Commission voted 3-0-2 (Mr. Bradley and Mr. Freer abstained) to accept the minutes of March 24, 2010 (Executive Session) as written.

April 28, 2010

Motion made by Mr. Bradley and seconded by Mr. Freer. The Conservation Commission voted 3-0-2 (Mr. Chagnon and Ms. Peckham abstained) to approve the minutes of April 28, 2010 as written.

May 12, 2010

Motion made by Mr. Chagnon and seconded by Ms. Peckham. The Conservation Commission voted 3-0-2 (Mr. Bradley and Mr. Mills abstained) to approve the minutes of May 12, 2010 as written.

Old / New Business**Changes to Open Meeting Law – Discussion**

The Conservation Commission members had no questions on the Open Meeting Law information that was given out at the last meeting so no further discussion is needed.

Other**Swans Pond**

The Conservation Commission tried to remember if there was any approval granted for the pump for irrigation at Swans Pond. Mr. Chagnon seems to think they came before the Conservation Commission under Citizen's Forum. However, even if they did, there is no impact to anything under the Conservation Commission's jurisdiction and it is for less than the threshold so no filing or restrictions were needed. However, Mr. Mills spoke with Mr. Fease and Mr. Fease stated that he has a deed that shows he owns the land under Swans Pond so anyone else is trespassing. Ms. Kinney checked the Conservation Commission minutes back through 2001 and could not find anything on the pump for irrigation.

Conservation Commission members present performed *administrative tasks* (signed Orders, etc.) that were needed.

Executive Session**MGL Chapter 39, S 23B #3 – Litigation**

Mr. Mills will contact Mr. Doneski on the status of this litigation and the Conservation Commission will remove it from their agenda until we receive more information.

Motion made by Mr. Freer and seconded by Ms. Peckham. The Conservation Commission voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Kinney
Conservation Administrative Assistant