



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

7 MAIN STREET
WHITINSVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 01588
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Meeting Minutes August 04, 2021

Justine Carroll, Justin Arbuckle, Chloe Mawn, Cindee Cummiskey and Barbara McNamee were present. Steve Gniadek and Rich Chiras were absent. Barbara Kinney, Conservation Commission (NCC) Administrative Assistant and David Pickart, NCC Agent, were also present.

J. Carroll opened the meeting at 7:02PM.

Attendees: Deb & Brian Castell; and Alton Stone, Alton Engineering.

Citizen's Forum

None

Public Meeting – RDA – (05-RDA-2021) 911 Main Street (Map 1, Parcel 91)

Proposed replacement of the soil absorption system, located in the back lawn. The existing cesspool will be closed per Title 5 and a new system will be installed. The existing system and the new system are within the 100 foot buffer but is outside the 50 foot Title 5 setback. The applicant is Achara Weydt represented by Alton Engineering, 10 Rugg Road, Sterling, MA 01564.

The legal requirements have been satisfied including publication of the legal ad. Alton Stone from Alton Engineering explained that this is a septic system replacement and has received the report from D. Pickart. D. Pickart stated that the Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW) is maintained lawn to the tree line. Erosion controls should be placed downslope and suggests that the NCC issue a negative determination #3 that the project will not adversely affect the wetlands and a negative #6 that this project is not subject to the town bylaw.

Motion made by B. McNamee and seconded by J. Arbuckle. The NCC voted 5-0 by roll call vote of J. Carroll – Yes; J. Arbuckle – Yes; B. McNamee – Yes; C. Mawn – Yes; and C. Cummiskey – Yes to issue the #3 and #6 negative determination.

Old / New Business

Open Space Committee – Appoint representatives (2)

The NCC is allowed two representatives to the Open Space Committee. B. McNamee is already listed as being on the committee so there is one vacancy. B. McNamee wanted the NCC's opinion on whether it would be a conflict of interest as she is a member for the Metacomet Land Trust. She could check with the Town Clerk. D. Pickart noted that the Town of Upton has several members on their Conservation Commission that serve on their Open Space committee and on Metacomet Land Trust. Metacomet is a non-profit agency.

C. Mawn is also interested in serving on this committee. A copy of the Open Space Committee survey that will be provided to residents will be sent to the NCC soon.

Motion made by J. Arbuckle and seconded by C. Cummiskey. The NCC voted 5-0 by roll call vote of J. Carroll – Yes; J. Arbuckle – Yes; B. McNamee – Yes; C. Mawn – Yes; and C. Cummiskey – Yes to appoint B. McNamee and C. Mawn as Conservation representatives to the Open Space Committee.

Roosevelt Drive (portion not accepted by Town) – Any outstanding issues?

D. Pickart prepared a memo to the Planning Board (PB) and the NCC reviewed it. D. Pickart noted that this section of the project is all uplands so there is no NCC jurisdiction. All the Certificates of Compliance (COC) have been issued for Presidential Farms where it was needed. The NCC is fine with the memo and it will be sent to the Planning Board.

Warrant for FATM – Closes at Noon on August 27, 2021

The NCC will resubmit the warrant article for the creation of the Conservation Fund. There is no need to start again from scratch so just a new cover letter, etc. needs to be submitted before the August 27, 2021 deadline.

Fall Annual Town Meeting – October 26, 2021

Point of information. J. Carroll will put this date in her calendar to attend the FATM for the warrant article.

Other

License Route Slip – The Board of Selectmen (BOS) are looking for any comments from departments before they approve the new junk dealer's license for a property on Moon Hill Road. A new permit is needed due to a change in ownership. D. Pickart mentioned that this property could have an Army Corps. Of Engineers easement. The junkyard has been there a long time and is more than 100 feet from the pond. The NCC wanted to know if there would be any impact to a cold stream fishery and D. Pickart explained that could only be addressed if it was a new business. It was noted that an expansion would require a permit from the NCC. The NCC gave the okay to sign the route slip.

Signs

D. Pickart stated he attended the Safety Committee meeting to present the mock-up of the signs and the meeting went very well. He will attend the BOS meeting on September 13, 2021 and make the recommendation. Due to vacations, etc. this is the first meeting available.

D. Pickart will fix the typo in the mock-up and add the Town's logo once he gets a high resolution version for the signs. More do's and don'ts can be added later but for now this is okay. The sign will be mounted high enough so that a second sign could be mounted below it if needed. Per the Police Department, the hours that it is closed must be posted and not the hours that it is open. The bullets for no hunting, no camping and no fires is mandated by the Police and Fire Chief. The NCC discussed whether a bullet point on the sign should be about pets on a leash. They will address this if it becomes a problem and can be put on the additional sign. D. Pickart feels that we should order a dozen signs as four (4) will be put at Shining Rock and some can be placed at the Hills at Whitinsville, Carpenter Estates, etc.

The Shining Rock parking area will be opened based upon the feedback received and conditions put in place. The Safety Committee wants four (4) signs posted at Shining Rock with one (1) located at the parking lot entrance, one (1) located at the trail entrance after crossing the field; one (1) at the top near the rock face and one (1) down at the old entrance. The Department of Public Works (DPW) has weed whacked around the parking lot. The light should be operational very soon. There will also be two (2) signs placed at Shining Rock that say "DO NOT ENTER" where the trail kind of parallels the back of private residences. A trash can will be placed at the parking lot and the DPW will empty it at least weekly.

Leland Road

D. Pickart reported that the drainage replacement is 99% complete. The pipe was plugged / collapsed with many angles to it. When they encountered ledge when it was originally installed, they changed the direction of the pipe which was not good for flow. They unearthed a headwall that was under six (6) feet of water in the wetland / pond. Once the blockage was removed, it took eight (8) hours to drain. The DPW has now bermed this side of the wetland area along the garage side and added some rock to help stabilize the area. Armored rip rap was installed along the slope leading down to the resource area. This area is about five (5) times the size of the drainage basin that collects all the runoff from the Syncarpha Solar and Stone Hill Condos. D. Pickart is hopeful that this will no longer run off to the side and behind the residences. The catch basins and manholes will be cleaned out of any sediment. D. Pickart thinks the vegetation will grow in the area that was drained. The NCC asked about putting up a sign that states "No snow storage / No plowing." The land is owned by Syncarpha and either they or the DPW could install that sign. A stake should be placed to delineate the inlet so it can be found in the future. Stone Hill Condos still need to work on their drainage and concentrate the runoff away from the Syncarpha access road so it will not wash out and fill Syncarpha's basins with sediment, etc.

Fireworks Event

The NCC discussed the upcoming event and no one can attend. There was not a lot of notice given this year. D. Pickart will be there with some posters, sign-up sheets, flyers to hand out, etc.

The NCC members present performed administrative tasks (signed Orders, etc.) that were needed.

Adjournment

Motion made by B. McNamee and seconded by J. Arbuckle. The NCC voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting about 7:53PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara A. Kinney
Conservation Administrative Assistant

DATE APPROVED:

