



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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NORTHBRIDGE TOWN CLERK
LINDA S. ZYWIEN

Meeting Minutes March 02, 2022

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

J. Carroll opened the meeting at 7:00PM.

Attendees: Robert Duff, Guerriere & Halnon, Inc. (G & H); and Brian Fitzgerald.

Citizen's Forum None

(248-687) Winston Woods (Off Spring Street) (Map 15A, Parcels 224-232)

Proposed construction of a nine (9)-lot residential subdivision with associated infrastructure. The applicant for this project is B. Fitzgerald represented by G & H, 1029 Providence Road, Whitinsville, MA 01588.

J. Carroll abstained from this Public Hearing. B. McNamee explained that the information has been received. Three (3) special conditions are unique to this project. There are other special conditions and they just need to be selected from the boilerplate list. Numbers one (1) and two (2) were developed in collaboration with the Town Planner, Department of Public Works (DPW) and Planning Board (PB) review:

1. Prior to the start of work on the project the applicant is to submit design plans stamped by a registered profession engineer showing the proposed modifications to the existing retaining wall at the North end of Spring Street and any additional walls to be connected to the existing wall regardless of whether such plans are required by the MA Building Code. The plans shall be reviewed and approved by the NCC along with the PB and DPW Director prior to proceeding with the project.
2. Prior to the construction of any residential units within the project, the applicant shall prepare a plan for approval by NCC along with PB and DPW that provides device(s) allowing for reduced susceptibility to blockage of the current inlets located in Lot 1. The plan must be signed and stamped by a professional engineer. The devices shall allow for easier maintenance of the inlets compared to current conditions.
3. A special condition to install the water line through the wetland shall take place during dry conditions and when no rain is forecast for 48 hours. Prior to work, the applicant shall provide a restoration plan for the affected wetland resources. The plan shall include protocols for back filling the trench, applying organic soil and seeding within the vegetated

wetland, and reconstruction of its stable channel to convey stream flow from upslope areas. Work shall not proceed until the NCC or Agent has approved the restoration plan.

B. Fitzgerald stated that the wetland crossing condition is fine. Regarding the outlet control structure, details are on the drawing, but the NCC may not have seen it yet. (No plans have been submitted to the NCC yet). The pictures showing the debris and slope behind the wall were discussed. There are 12 foot granite blocks. Once the area is cleared, the exposed channel will be cleaned out. The water flow should be fine and working much better since the debris will have been cleaned out. The water will not flow over the wall. If anything, it will breakout around the section of the wall that is below grade and will be moved/reconstructed for the roadway, per B. Fitzgerald. Gabion walls have been seen but D. Pickart will not give a recommendation since he is not an engineer. B. Duff stated the results from modeling are done. The analysis was done for a model with 12 acres/125 cubic feet per second for 100 year storm (seven [7] inch storm). Basically piping down Spring Street reduces from 125 cubic feet per second to 113 1/2 cubic feet per second (11% reduction). The rest of the runoff is offsite and cannot be controlled.

Motion made by J. Arbuckle and seconded by S. Gniadek. The NCC voted 5-0-1 by roll call vote of C. Mawn – Yes; R. Chiras – Yes; J. Arbuckle – Yes; S. Gniadek – Yes; B. McNamee – Yes; and J. Carroll – Abstain to close the Public Hearing. D. Pickart will draft the OOC to be voted on at the next meeting.

Old/New Business

Blackstone Valley Collaborative Support Resolution

This item was taken up at the beginning of the meeting before Winston Woods. Stephanie Covino was at MA Audubon and is now at Clark University and is developing a central clearinghouse for all environmental elements on the Blackstone River. She has reached out to all communities for input.

R. Chiras arrived about 7:05PM.

She has reached out to our Town Planner. This is not under the PB's purview so the information/request has been forwarded to the NCC. If the NCC agrees, then work will proceed and S. Covino will attend a future Board of Selectmen's (BOS) meeting so the information/approval will come from them. D. Pickart and the Chair or Vice Chair of the NCC will attend that BOS meeting as well. B. McNamee stated that this may be tied in with the open space plan and D. Pickart stated that other things may be tied in as well. It would be the town who supports this resolution; not just the NCC.

A different spinoff is the "ZAP 50" program. ZAP the Blackstone was originally started 50 years ago and 29 tons of trash has been removed from the Blackstone River. A movement is underway to do a 50th commemorative clean-up in September 2022. The NCC should form a group of volunteers to handle some area(s) in Northbridge. This may be good too for the resident that was interested in the past with clean-ups.

Conservation Fund Fact Sheet/Blackstone Valley Home & Community Expo

The Expo will be held on March 12, 2022 and D. Pickart volunteered to be there for the first two (2) segments to man the table occupied by several different entities including the NCC. There will be box to accept donations to the conservation fund. There will be a poster about what the NCC does and a fact sheet about the conservation fund. A NCC volunteer is needed for the last segment from 2:00PM to the end at 4:00PM or 5:00PM. B. McNamee

will be there for the first part of the expo and to set up on Friday for the Open Space Committee. Someone corrected the time that the expo is over at 2:00PM, so a volunteer from NCC is needed from 12:00PM to 2:00PM. C. Mawn stated that she received an Email from Christine on the Open Space Committee and she may be able to do this last segment for the NCC.

Map 14/Parcel 17 (Town Owned Land) – Request to Delineate Wetlands

A parcel of land abutting the town owned land is owned by Tri-Valley Realty Trust and these parcels are located across the street from the sewer treatment plant. The land is zoned Industrial. A legal entity on private land wants permission to delineate the wetlands on the town owned land as well. It appears that they are assessing the development possibilities on both parcels of land. The owner of the abutting parcel may approach the town to buy the town owned parcel. D. Pickart believes it is fine that they delineate the wetlands and topography. He spoke with the Town Manager and he would not grant the request unless all data produced is given to the town. The town would be getting the delineation for free and the town would need to do the delineation at some point anyway. There has been some talk of the town putting a park on their parcel of land. B. McNamee is familiar with this parcel of land through the Open Space Committee. She would hate to see the town sell it. It has historic value as there are remains of a farm, etc. on the property. The town has many parcels of land like this that are not protected. The NCC is amenable to the delineation being done.

Other

Syncarpha Solar and Stone Hill Condos will be asked to attend the first meeting in April. The town engineer is helping to assess the situation in that area and doing a cost analysis to address the concerns in that region of town.

Spotted Lanternfly – S. Gniadek may have found a tree with spotted lanternflies. It is a white pine tree at Fish Pond, but he is not sure. D. Pickart commented that he is not good with bugs so he will be of no help.

Next Meeting - A Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) was submitted for 2116 Providence Road and an Amendment Request to the Order of Conditions (OOC) for 0 Douglas Road was also submitted and both will be on the next agenda.

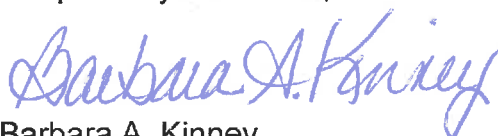
Open Space – The survey for the open space plan is out. Please fill out a survey. C. Mawn will forward the link to the NCC.

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 6-0 to adjourn the meeting about 7:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara A. Kinney
Conservation Administrative Assistant

DATE APPROVED:

