



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

7 MAIN STREET
WHITINSVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 01588
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Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2022

NORTHBRIDGE TOWN CLERK
LINDA B. ZWIERS

RECEIVED
22 NOV -4 AM 9:30

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

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

Citizen's Forum

None

(248-XXX) Mumford Riverwalk, Linwood Avenue, (Map 5, Parcels 52, 53 and 54)

Proposed improvements to the Mumford Riverwalk including construction of a +/-365-foot-long boardwalk, reconstruction of a bird blind structure, construction of a 30-foot-long pier and mowing of invasive weeds/vines along the edge of Linwood Avenue. Work is proposed on three (3) town-owned properties. The applicant is Town of Northbridge Department of Public Works (DPW), Fletcher Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588.

The legal requirements have been satisfied including publication of the legal ad. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) file number is needed. G. Bechtholdt, Town Planner, explained that the riverwalk spans along Linwood Avenue from the middle school to more or less the Linwood Mill. It is a great amenity to the town. Recently, a portion of the roadway was widened for the Whitinsville Christian School, and it eliminated some of the riverwalk area. This riverwalk was envisioned 25 years ago but there were no funds to make some of the improvements that are proposed now. A donation from Stone Hill Condos (in lieu of affordable housing) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds (covid relief) are to be used for this endeavor. NCC will review the full surveyed plans. The next step after the NCC approval is for the design build. G. Bechtholdt gave kudos to D. Pickart for preparing the layout plans for the project. If the boardwalk is at grade, then it will be six (6) feet below the street. The boardwalk proposed will be a raised one.

D. Pickart explained that the boardwalk will be +/-356 feet long and eight (8) feet wide. It will be supported by timber pilings. Hand borings showed that there is a pretty thin layer of sand then gravel. The footings will be one (1) foot by one (1) foot with a 90 pound per square inch (psi), so several people can stand in one place and the fire department can get a four-wheeler on the boardwalk if needed. They are looking at using composite decking material. It will last longer, and it may be cheaper than lumber right now. The boardwalk will go through the wetland. There is an intermittent stream channel too and Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF). A 20 foot by 20-foot observation platform is proposed at

the closest point to the river. It will be +/- six (6) feet above ground surface and +/- four (4) feet above the 100-year flood level. This will put the boardwalk +/- two (2) feet below Linwood Avenue. The observation deck will be semi-enclosed with windows and crude benches. Students can record their wildlife observations.

There are lots of weeds, poison ivy, etc. that will need to be mowed. Any bare areas will be seeded with a conservation wildflower mix. If there are sufficient funds, then the bird blind will be replaced as the existing one fell apart and the new one would have a ramp up to it. Also, a three (3) foot wide pier to Linwood Pond on footings is proposed. There will be 68 feet of permanent fill with 3,500 total disturbance with most of it consisting of mowing the weeds and brush. Stumps will be removed only if they interfere with a piling location. Some pruning of limbs may be done to view the river and for sightlines from Linwood Avenue. Periodic maintenance will need to be done and allowed for. 186 feet of floodplain work is proposed with it mostly cutting of shrubs on the approaches. 6.5 cubic feet of flood storage will be displaced. A small replication area of 1.4 times the disturbance is proposed. There will be four (4) square feet of BLSF and 9,000 square feet of Riverfront (RF) disturbance.

This project qualifies as a limited project under the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) which means the project does not need to conform to all the requirements (performance standards) under the WPA. The only performance standard that the project will not meet is that it will be closer than 100 feet to the river.

B. McNamee wanted more information on the invasive species. The area with the invasive species will be periodically trimmed and a burn/mowing of the area every couple of years will be done. S. Gniadek wanted to know about littering and the placement of trash cans because littering could be a problem. Lately, there has been very little litter as there has been someone cleaning up the area. All Conservation Commission lands should have land stewards to clean up designated areas. The Whitinsville Christian School has a formal program to pick up trash along Linwood Avenue and maybe this program could be extended to the boardwalk.

The applicant has met with the Safety Committee this morning and no major concerns were raised. More signs could be added as this is a sensitive area. There are lots of birds along the river. The boardwalk will be mostly through a wooded swamp, and you will not see the river until you get to the observation platform. Linwood Avenue is part of the DPW's complete streets program. D. Pickart explained where the trail currently runs.

Richard Auger, 393 Linwood Avenue, stated that he has lived there more than 40 years and the area is an absolute gem. He is concerned with who will maintain the area and for the safety of students crossing Linwood Avenue to clean up the litter. He has noticed some otters in the water in the last few weeks. He would hate to see the project disrupt them.

Paul Knapik, 15 Heritage Drive, wanted to commend the town. His son Jayce redid the signage of the Mumford River Walk for his Eagle Scout project, and he is glad to see the project for the boardwalk. Hopefully, this project will expand the buffer between the river/boardwalk and the street. He suggests maybe a hedgerow could be planted as the existing buffer is used for parking along Linwood Avenue. He stated that there is lots of wildlife there.

Annika Bangma, 8 Spring Street, is concerned with the trash and suggests trash cans be placed on either end of the trail and signs stating "leave no trace" be placed along the trail. Students will connect more with the signage and the trash cans. She is also concerned with the students' safety on Linwood Avenue. If the trail is well traveled and highly visible, then there is less likely for damage, etc. to occur.

Mary Shugrue Yacino, 4 Gill Court, has parents that live at 52 Heritage Drive and thinks this is a great project.

It was suggested that the Conservation Commission partner with the school(s), police, DPW, etc. to address any concerns.

Motion made by B. McNamee and seconded by C. Mawn. The NCC voted 4-0 to continue the Public Hearing to November 02, 2022.

(248-695) Quaker Street Landfill, 1201 Quaker Street, (Map 28, Parcel 23)

Proposed test pits and monitoring wells in and adjacent to wetlands that border the Blackstone River for an investigation study to assess whether there is uncapped waste at the site. The applicant is Greenwave Environmental, Inc. represented by Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc., 55 Walkers Brook Drive, Suite 100, Reading, MA 01867.

The legal requirements have been satisfied including publication of the legal ad. Rob Bukowski, Weston & Sampson, explained that there is one (1) test pit that will be in the Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW) and the rest will be in BLSF, RF, etc. The test pits are to determine the extent of waste beyond the landfill. They will backfill in the same order as they excavate, and the area will be seeded with a recommended mix and maybe some winter mix to get vegetation established quicker. The monitoring wells are existing and there will be no new ones.

The suggested special conditions are as follows: Work must be undertaken between October 16 and April 14 so as to avoid potential impacts to state-listed turtles. Work shall be undertaken during dry conditions when no significant rainfall (0.25 inches or more) is forecasted within 48 hours. Contractor shall have approximately 50 linear feet of straw wattles and stakes on hand in case conditions arise that could result in erosion. All test pits must be backfilled at the end of each working day. Disturbed areas shall be seeded with the New England Wildlife/Conservation Mix produced by New England Wetland Plants, Inc. (or an approved alternate.) The mix can be supplemented with winter rye. Seeded areas shall be covered with a thin layer of clean straw mulch. This Order of Conditions (OOC) does not confirm the limits of Bordering and Isolated Wetlands on the property. The limits depicted on the site plan referenced in the OOC are not valid for any permanent work that may be proposed in the future. Before submitting applications for any additional and/or future work, all flags demarcating bordering/isolated wetlands must be reestablished at the site prior to the start of work. Flags must be reviewed and confirmed by the Conservation Agent before work can proceed. The Board of Health (BOH) and NCC must be provided with copies of all test pit logs completed as part of this investigation.

The applicant wants to move forward as soon as possible before the ground freezes or there is snow fall, etc. Almost all of the work is in the floodplain. The work will take about one (1) week to complete.

Matt McLaughlin, 1256 Quaker Street, wanted to know what the future work would be that the test pits are being done for. DEP is requiring the test pits to determine the extent and depth on the waste beyond the landfill. Then the applicant will work with DEP to address the concerns of the waste beyond the landfill.

Motion made by S. Gniadek and seconded by C. Mawn. The NCC voted 4-0 to close the Public Hearing.

Motion made by B. McNamee and seconded by S. Gniadek. The NCC voted 4-0 to issue the OOC with the special conditions discussed above.

(09-RDA-2022) 980 Providence Road (Map 14, Parcel 184)

Proposed addition to back of house to extend the kitchen on sonotube footings. There is a drainage ditch that runs along the north and east sides of the property. The applicant is Christy Daniels represented by Scott Davidson, SHD Carpentry, 21 Emerald Avenue, Webster, MA 01570.

D. Pickart has discussed the project with the applicant's representative, and they are not present tonight. If the work were more than 50 feet away from the stream, the project would be exempt. However, it is only 40 feet away. The addition will be on sonotubes with limited disturbance. The stream is very obvious to see. D. Pickart suggests a negative #3 and a negative #6 determination with erosion controls installed.

Motion made by B. McNamee and seconded by C. Mawn. The NCC voted 4-0 to issue a negative determination #3 and #6 with erosion controls.

(06-RDA-2022) 1111-1115 Providence Road (Map 14, Parcel 51)

Proposed clearing of vegetation and stabilizing eroded areas along the banks of an intermittent stream. The applicant is Earl Ebbeling, 175 Puddon Street, Northbridge, MA 01534.

The report from the arborist has been received. Most of the trees are falling and/or shading the roof of the commercial building. There is a layer of moss growing on the roof. There are 14-15 trees that are over two (2) inch caliper. The trees will be cut with stumps left three (3) to four (4) feet high. The work can be done from the gravel area on the abutting property that has the same owner. Wood chips will be put over any bare ground. There will be no work on the stream bank.

Motion made by C. Mawn and seconded by S. Gniadek. The NCC voted 4-0 to issue a negative #3 and a positive #5 determination with special conditions stated above.

Old/New Business

Rockdale Pocket Park – Discussion

D. Pickart explained that this will be parklet proposed on Providence Road across from Cumberland Farms. The property is town owned. G. Bechtholdt further explained that the site was where the Rockdale Youth Center used to be. The building has been demolished and the Rockdale Youth Center has relocated to Church Avenue in the building that was the school for St. Peter's Parish. The relocation was made possible by grant funds, as the property on Providence Road was historically prone to flooding from the Blackstone River. No building or parking can be put there so a park makes sense.

This is an informal discussion, but a Notice of Intent will be filed in the future. They are proposing pervious pavers, fencing, raised gardens, benches, etc. Possibly a bird bath too. There will be a trench for infiltration and nominal grading towards the trench located in the back corner. If raised beds are used, compensation is needed for the displaced flood area. Students at the Rockdale Youth Center can paint birdhouses that will be placed in the park. Surveyed plans are being finalized. The funds for this project came from a donation from Stone Hill Condos and the ARPA funds grant.

(248-346) Shining Rock Phase 1 – Request Certificate of Compliance (COC)

Motion made by C. Mawn and seconded by S. Gniadek. The NCC voted 4-0 to issue the COC.

(248-402) Shining Rock Intermittent Stream – Request COC

Motion made by C. Mawn and seconded by S. Gniadek. The NCC voted 4-0 to issue the COC.

Minutes

October 05, 2022

Motion made by S. Gniadek and seconded by C. Mawn. The NCC voted 4-0 to accept the minutes of October 05, 2022.

September 21, 2022

Motion made by S. Gniadek and seconded by B. McNamee. The NCC vote 4-0 to approve the minutes of September 21, 2022.

November 03, 2021

Motion made by S. Gniadek and seconded by C. Mawn. The NCC voted 4-0 to approve the minutes of November 03, 2021.

Other

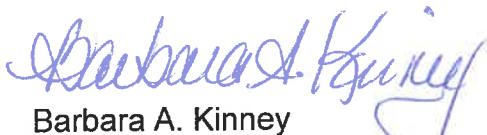
The NCC members present performed administrative tasks (signed Orders, etc.) that were needed.

Adjournment

Motion made by B. McNamee and seconded by S. Gniadek. The NCC voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE APPROVED:



Barbara A. Kinney
Conservation Administrative Assistant

November 02, 2022

October 19, 2022

CONSERVATION MAIL LIST

FROM	DATE	SUBJECT
Foppema Tree Care	10/03/2022	Jumbo Donuts Trees (Providence Rd/Church St) Letter
Conservation Agent	10/17/2022	980 Providence Road Agent Review Report
Board of Health	10/18/2022	Memo – Quaker Street Landfill
Conservation Agent	10/19/2022	Quaker St, Landfill Agent Review Report

WEEKLY REPORTS

- September 25, 2022 to October 01, 2022
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ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED AT MEETING