



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

22 NOV 17 PM 2: 21

NORTHBRIDGE TOWN CLERK
LINNA D. ZYWIEN

Meeting Minutes May 19, 2021

Remote meeting via Zoom.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL Chapter 30A Section 18 and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings of the Northbridge Conservation Commission (NCC) shall be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance of members or the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided in the Order.

Justin Arbuckle, Steve Gniadek, Rich Chiras, Cindy Campbell, and Barbara McNamee were present. Justine Carroll was absent. David Pickart, Conservation Commission (NCC Agent), and Barbara Kinney, NCC Administrative Assistant, were present. There is one (1) open vacancy on the NCC.

Ms. McNamee opened the meeting at 7:02PM.

Attendees: Roland Roy; Deb Castell; and Travis Brown, Turning Point Engineering.

Citizen's Forum

None

(248-684) 0 Glen Drive

Proposed construction of a single-family dwelling and associated activities within the buffer zone. The applicant is Eastland Partners represented by Turning Point Engineering.

The applicant has requested a continuance, per T. Brown. They are waiting for additional information.

Motion made by C. Campbell and seconded by J. Arbuckle. The NCC voted 5-0 by roll call vote of B. McNamee – Yes; R. Chiras – Yes; C. Campbell – Yes; S. Gniadek – Yes; and J. Arbuckle – Yes to continue the Public Hearing to June 16, 2021 at 7:05PM.

(248-XXX) 2653 Providence Road (Map 19, Parcel 68)

Proposed construction of a single-family dwelling and associated activities within the Riverfront Area. The applicant is Yong Li represented by Civil Site Engineering, LLC.

B. McNamee commented that the back side of the building is falling down the bank. The applicant or their representative was not present so this Public Hearing will be continued, and the applicant will be contacted with the continuance information. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) file number was just received, and they have two (2) comments as follows: Portions of the project are indicated to be located within Natural

Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP) Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife. The applicant should provide proof of mailing to NHESP to the NCC of a completed application and provide the letter of finding for NCC to review once the letter is made available. Due to the site topography, DEP recommends that silt fence be used in conjunction with proposed wattles.

Motion made by C. Campbell and seconded by R. Chiras. The NCC voted 5-0 by roll call vote of J. Arbuckle – Yes; S. Gniadek – Yes; B. McNamee – Yes; R. Chiras – Yes; and C. Campbell – Yes to continue the Public Hearing to June 02, 2021 at 7:05PM.

(248-XXX) 0 Genivieve Drive (Map 16, Parcel 268)

Proposed construction of a single-family dwelling and associated activities within the buffer zone. Applicant is Cora Lane Group, LLC represented by Turning Point Engineering.

The legal requirements have been satisfied including publication of the legal ad. The DEP number is still needed. T. Brown explained that a single-family dwelling located within The Camelot is proposed at the cul-de-sac. It is Lot 52, and the subdivision was approved in 2009/2010. The subdivision has town water and sewer. There will be only minor grading and only the road has been cut in. There has been no clearing on the lot yet. D. Pickart has issued his review. The NCC will need to decide if a no-disturb sign should be placed at the 50-foot buffer line. The property is fairly level with a shallow slope to the wetland. An area off the property could be a potential vernal pool. It is not functioning as one this year.

Motion made by J. Arbuckle and seconded by R. Chiras. The NCC voted 5-0 by roll call vote of J. Arbuckle – Yes; B. McNamee – Yes; R. Chiras – Yes; S. Gniadek – Yes; and C. Campbell – Yes to continue the Public Hearing to June 02, 2021 at 7:10PM.

(248-653/248-665) Syncarpha Northbridge I/II Solar

Requests for Certificates of Compliance.

No one was present tonight for these requests. Some progress has been made at these sites. Graves Engineering will get us an estimate for the final inspection(s). The invoicing issues have been cleared up and the checks are coming.

Old / New Business

Leland Road – Drainage

The Department of Public Works (DPW) does not have enough funds to address the drainage issues this fiscal year. The project will have to wait until the start of the next fiscal year (July). The Castells are concerned with the hill. Grass has been planted, but it is not growing. A rain event could collapse the hill. D. Pickart has notified the developer to start watering the area and to also address the dust control problem there. There are punchlist items for both Syncarpha I and Syncarpha II that need to be completed before the COC is issued.

Riley Pond - Beaver Situation

The beaver activity at Riley Pond is causing lots of dying trees. The beavers are also damming the outlet. People are constantly removing debris. There is six (6) inches of hardpacked mud. Someone has formally submitted a complaint to the Board of Selectmen (BOS). A decision needs to be made on whether the beaver should be trapped. The DPW, Board of Health (BOH) and NCC must agree. This is not beaver trapping season, but the

BOH could issue an emergency order. The NCC would not have any say, however, the NCC could issue their support. C. Campbell is not in support of trapping the beaver. B. McNamee said the NCC needs to balance the pros and cons. Something needs to be done as the beaver are negatively impacting the pond and the land around it. There are algae blooms on Riley Pond that are exacerbating the negative impact(s) to the pond. The beavers are contributing nothing positive. The water level fluctuates, and the trees are dying. It is virtually impossible to walk around the pond because of the fallen trees. 50% of the 300-year-old trees are dead. R. Chiras has been looking at this for a while now. Most of those trees could have been saved. It is too little too late. B. McNamee is in favor of trapping the beavers. If the BOH is willing to have the trapping done, then let them do it. C. Campbell commented that it is like thinning out a forest. D. Pickart stated that is primarily done out west and they only remove the dead timber. S. Gniadek can see both sides. The DPW would need to apply to the BOH for a permit for the trapping.

D. Pickart is also concerned with the instability of the dam. It is getting to the point where something needs to be done.

The NCC has mixed feelings as they do not oppose it or necessarily support it. The BOH will be notified that the NCC is unable to come to a consensus, but they do have concerns about the damage that has been done. D. Pickart will forward NCC's response to the BOH.

Earth Removal Board – Annual reappointment

Motion made by C. Campbell and seconded by S. Gniadek. The NCC voted 5-0 by roll call vote of B. McNamee – Yes; R. Chiras – Yes; C. Campbell – Yes; S. Gniadek – Yes; and J. Arbuckle – Yes to reappoint R. Chiras as the NCC representative to the Earth Removal Board.

Other

(248-573) The Camelot – Request for an Amendment

The applicant has requested an amendment to the Order of Conditions for the wetland crossing of Grace Street. Instead of a bridge, they are now requesting a three-sided box culvert that will have less alteration to the wetland. D. Pickart issued a report and the NCC reviewed the request.

Motion made by J. Arbuckle and seconded by S. Gniadek. The NCC voted 5-0 by roll call vote of B. McNamee – Yes; R. Chiras – Yes; C. Campbell – Yes; S. Gniadek – Yes and J. Arbuckle – Yes to approve the amendment to the OOC.

Waterways Discussion – The NCC discussed litter and invasive species, etc. in waterways. It is hard to enforce fines to whomever is littering. Research would need to be done into how the NCC has responded to this in the past. The NCC discussed clean-up initiatives that could be held and how to get the word out. Postings on the website, notably Northbridge, and Facebook will be considered to try and get residents involved. We could request that the DPW pick up the trash bags from any areas that are cleaned-up. Spring is the ideal time to hold these clean-ups per B. McNamee. Some thought should go into whether we could partner with other communities, Metacomet Land Trust, etc. Also, whether the NCC would want to do it as an annual event.

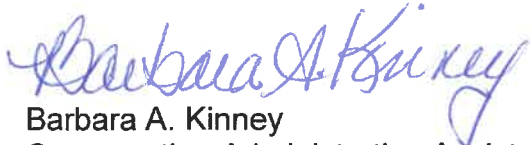
The NCC members present performed administrative tasks (signed Orders, etc.) that were needed.

Adjournment

Motion made by J. Arbuckle and seconded by C. Campbell. The NCC voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting about 8:17PM.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE APPROVED:



Barbara A. Kinney
Conservation Administrative Assistant

November 16, 2022