



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Meeting Minutes November 15, 2023

Justin Arbuckle, Justine Carroll, Rich Chiras, Cindee Cummiskey, and Barbara McNamee were present. Chloe Mawn was absent. Barbara Kinney, Conservation Commission (NCC) Administrative Assistant and David Pickart, NCC Agent, were present. The NCC has one (1) vacancy.

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

Citizen's Forum None

(NCCP202301) 0 Emond Street (Map 22A, Parcels 251, 252)

Proposed construction of two (2) duplexes within the buffer zone of an isolated vegetated wetland with a vernal pool. The applicant is Bruno Orlandi, BD Homes, LLC represented by Goddard Consulting, LLC, 291 Main Street, Suite 8, Northborough, MA 01532.

The applicant has requested a continuance to the December 20, 2023 meeting.

Motion made by B. McNamee and seconded by R. Chiras. The NCC voted 5-0 to continue the Public Hearing to December 20, 2023.

(06-RDA-2023) Linwood Avenue Complete Streets (Map 5)

Proposed sidewalk and crossing improvements at the three (3) existing crosswalks across Linwood Avenue to include reconstructed and improved crosswalks, new and reconstructed sidewalks including Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)-compliant pedestrian curb ramps, signage, pavement markings and drainage adjustments. The applicant is Northbridge Department of Public Works (DPW) represented by Howard Stein Hudson (HSH), 370 Main Street, Suite 972, Worcester, MA 01608.

The legal requirements have been satisfied including publication of the legal ad. Chris Lyman, HSH, representing the applicant explained that the work will be along Linwood Avenue and there are three (3) crosswalk areas that will be improved. The first is from in front of the Middle School to the Whitinsville Christian School (WCS) near the Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW). The second is in front of Northbridge High School, and the third is at the Linwood Mill. They all lie within the Riverfront area of the Mumford River. There will be reconstruction to the existing sidewalks to update them. In front of the entrance to WCS, the roadway will be adjusted for a left-hand turn, however, they are reclaiming the shoulder so there will be less impervious area. The proposed work also includes shifting the end of the Mumford Riverwalk southward to achieve a safer connection with the parking lot. D. Pickart was not clear on the drainage upgrades and C.

Lyman explained that the drainage upgrades will be at the entrance to the high school. They are adjusting the catch basin(s) frames to tighten up the radii and shorten the crossing.

Motion made by J. Arbuckle and seconded by R. Chiras. The NCC voted 5-0 to issue a negative #2, negative #3 and a positive #5 Determination of Applicability (DOA).

Conservation Land Rules & Regulations

Vote to Adopt

The legal requirements have been satisfied including publication of the legal ad. The NCC previously reviewed the rules and regulations and recommended approval to the Board of Selectmen (BOS). It was submitted as an article for the town warrant, but Town Counsel recommended that it be under the Conservation Commission. The article was passed over at Town Meeting.

Motion made by B. McNamee and seconded by R. Chiras. The NCC voted 5-0 to adopt the Conservation Land Rules and Regulations.

Old/New Business

(248-682) Proposed Bus Barn (Uxbridge) Maple Court (Northbridge) – Request for Extension and Reissuance of Order of Conditions (OOC)

The original OOC was found and was recorded. No action is needed by the NCC. There are no changes to the project, and it has not been started yet. +/-10% of the property is on Maple Court in Northbridge and the rest is in Uxbridge.

Motion made by R. Chiras and seconded by J. Arbuckle. The NCC voted 5-0 to extend the OOC for three (3) years.

Minutes

October 04, 2023

Motion made by R. Chiras and seconded by J. Arbuckle. The NCC voted 5-0 to approve the minutes of October 04, 2023.

October 18, 2023

Motion made by R. Chiras and seconded by J. Arbuckle. The NCC voted 5-0 to approve the minutes of October 18, 2023.

Other

Marcella Regal attended the meeting tonight because she may be interested in filling the vacancy on the NCC. The members introduced themselves and she explained a little about herself. She has lived four (4) years in Northbridge and 15 years in Grafton. She owns her own business "Fix Your Heath" which offers a holistic approach to health. She is very interested in the outdoors. J. Carroll explained what the NCC does. It was mentioned that the Land Stewardship Committee is forming and over 58 species of birds have been identified at the Castle Hill Conservation land so far. She expressed her concerns about the Plummers Landing (Department of Conservation and Recreation [DCR] land) not being maintained. D. Pickart can reach out to DCR to see what can be done and if there are any

grant opportunities. She is interested in land stewardship and will think about the NCC vacancy.

It was noted that there is nothing for the December 06, 2023 agenda at this time. The deadline is November 20, 2023. If nothing is submitted by November 20, 2023 the December 06, 2023 meeting will be cancelled.

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

Adjournment

Motion made by R. Chiras and seconded by J. Arbuckle. The NCC voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at about 8:12PM.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE APPROVED:



Barbara A. Kinney
Conservation Administrative Assistant



November 15, 2023

CONSERVATION MAIL LIST

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ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED AT MEETING