



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**7 MAIN STREET
WHITINSVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 01588
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Meeting Minutes October 24, 2012

Joy Anderson, Cheryl Peckham, Terry Bradley and John Brown were present. Andrew Chagnon was absent. Barbara Kinney, Administrative Assistant was also present. Note: Richard Lajoie passed away this past week so is no longer on the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Brown opened the meeting at 7:02PM.

Citizen's Forum

None

(248-590) Transmission Line in Existing ROW (Vicinity of Main Street and Lasell Road)

Proposed work includes the construction of a new 345-kV overhead transmission line and associated support structures within an existing right-of-way. Portions of the work will be in jurisdictional areas. The applicant is New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid represented by BSC Group, Inc., 33 Waldo Street, Worcester, MA 01608.

Paul Knapik of BSC Group was in attendance and gave a brief summary of the project. Three members of the Conservation Commission attended the site walk. The edge of the clearing has been flagged and can be seen from Main Street. The tree clearing is in the right-of-way and in some wetlands. Temporary mats will be used and there will be no permanent structures in Northbridge. They are requesting an expiration date of five years on the Order of Conditions. They will need permitting from all Towns and the start date is in 2014.

Mr. Bradley wanted to know if there are any snags. Mr. Knapik stated that some are found on the plan. They will be kept or a new snag will be created by cutting the tree 8-10 feet high and copper spikes inserted at the base of the tree to slowly kill the tree and create a nesting habitat for wildlife. Mr. Bradley then asked about plantings. Mr. Knapik stated that plantings will be done of vegetation that is currently there such as alder, silky dogwood, elderberry, winterberry, blueberry, sumac, etc. Mr. Bradley then suggested that they keep in mind the sensitive times of the year and a special condition would be to notify the Conservation Commission 48 hours before starting construction.

Motion made by Mr. Bradley and seconded by Ms. Peckham. The Conservation Commission voted 4-0 to close the Public Hearing.

Motion made by Ms. Peckham and seconded by Mr. Bradley. The Conservation Commission voted 4-0 to accept the plans entitled "Notice of Intent Site Plans Interstate

Reliability Project (IRP) – MA” dated August 22, 2012 with a five year Order of Conditions expiration date and the special condition(s) stated above.

(248-584) Douglas Road (Map 3, A.P.O. Parcel 121)

Proposed delineation of wetlands using 50% or more wetland indicator plants, saturated / inundated conditions and hydric soil indicators. The applicant is Douglas Road Industrial Realty Trust represented by Andrews Survey & Engineering, Inc., PO Box 312, Uxbridge, MA 01569.

Paul Hutnak of Andrews Survey & Engineering has requested a continuance of this project.

Motion made by Mr. Bradley and seconded by Ms. Anderson. The Conservation Commission voted 4-0 to continue the Public Hearing to November 14, 2012 at 7:20PM.

(248-591) Douglas Road (Map 3, Parcels 119, 120, 122, 123)

Proposed grading, site clearing, drainage and erosion control measures to create a gravel storage area within a wetland buffer zone. The applicant is Douglas Road Industrial Realty represented by Andrews Survey & Engineering, Inc., PO Box 312, 104 Mendon Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569.

Paul Hutnak of Andrews Survey & Engineering has requested a continuance of this project. EcoTec will be addressing the concerns raised and make the necessary changes.

Motion made by Mr. Bradley and seconded by Ms. Peckham. The Conservation Commission voted 4-0 to continue the Public Hearing to November 14, 2012 at 7:30PM.

(248-589) Church Street Extension Wetland Crossings (Map 28, Parcel(s) 6, 7, 72, 73 & 74)

Proposed construction of two limited project roadway crossings to access upland areas and includes associated grading, retaining walls, utilities, and paving. Crossing #1 has 24,330 square feet (sf) of Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW) fill and 770 cubic yards (cy) of Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF) fill. Crossing #2 has 430 sf of BVW fill. Totals of 27,990 sf BVW replication and 1,210 cy BLSF compensatory storage are proposed. Also, a 40 linear foot intermittent stream crossing is proposed. The applicant is Osterman Propane represented by Heritage Design Group, One Main Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588.

Mark Anderson of Heritage Design Group and Paul Knapik of BSC Group were present. Mr. Anderson gave a quick overview of the project and Mr. Knapik discussed what was reviewed during the site visit.

The crossings and replication area(s) were looked at. Mr. Knapik explained why it makes sense to move the small replication area to another location as the area depicted is a vernal pool when the conditions are right.

He is not sure of what the soil conditions are underneath the topsoil. However, the contractor will need to deal with that during construction. Ms. Peckham wanted to know if there is anything hazardous onsite. Mr. Knapik replied that there are no indications that there are, but he will not be sure until the digging begins. Mr. Anderson explained that most of the white goods, metal, trash, etc. has already been removed from the site. About 400 to 500 yards so far has been removed with most of it being white goods. The materials

are put into dumpsters and hauled off. The remaining tires, metal car parts, etc. need to be removed from the site.

The Phase I site assessment was done in 2009 and no hazardous materials were found. Mr. Anderson mentioned that an updated site assessment is being done on the land to be donated. What is found there should extend to the rest of the area. The Conservation Commission stated that consideration should be given to when the trees would be taken down, churning of the soils, etc. for protections and to keep to the roadway footprint. There will be lots of equipment traveling back and forth and the impact to the wetlands should be minimized. It is a difficult area with the Providence & Worcester Railroad on one side and the wetlands on the other. A special condition should be to notify the Conservation Commission two weeks in advance of where the clearing will take place and then notification again halfway through the crossing so proper monitoring of the work can be accomplished. The Conservation Commission should meet with the clearing contractor before the start of work. Mr. Knapik of BSC Group will monitor the project for the Conservation Commission and Mr. Anderson stated that Heritage Design Group will also monitor the project. Mr. Knapik suggests that the appropriate time for erosion controls to be installed be left up to the contractor.

With a five year monitoring period of the replication area and the 26 acres of land to be donated they are asking to be allowed a waiver on the 2:1 replication requirement and do a 1:1 replication instead. Five years is plenty of time to see how the replication area is functioning and make tweaks as necessary, per Mr. Knapik. Mr. Anderson is agreeable to have BSC Group (Paul Knapik) do the five year monitoring. Larger caliper trees will be planted and the applicant is no longer requesting a waiver for this. The crossing and replication area are in Phase II of the four total phases. Phase II will occur sometime in 2013. Phase I has already begun and will be completed in early 2013.

Per Mr. Anderson, the last two items have been submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers that were requested and the permit should be issued within approximately three weeks. The MEPA report (401 Water Quality) should be coming in about 45 days and the Environmental Impact Report will be issued after that 45 days.

Mr. Knapik volunteered to help draft the special conditions for the Order of Conditions (OOC). Ms. Peckham suggests not closing the Public Hearing until the final reports are received. The relevance of the reports to the OOC was discussed. Mr. Anderson suggested closing the Public Hearing and will give the Conservation Commission additional time to draft the OOC. Typically the Conservation Commission has only 21 days to issue the OOC. Mr. Anderson suggested 60 days and the Conservation Commission suggested the first meeting in January 2013 because there will only be one meeting in early December as the holidays fall at the end of December.

Motion made by Mr. Bradley and seconded by Ms. Peckham. The Conservation Commission voted 4-0 to close the Public Hearing.

The Order of Conditions need not be issued until January 9, 2013 as stated by client's representative (Mr. Anderson – Heritage Design Group). Ms. Kinney will Email the standard conditions to Mr. Knapik so he can draft the additional special conditions for the OOC. A special meeting may be held to review the special conditions before the January 9, 2013 meeting.

(248-593) Lot 64 Rebecca Road (Camelot) (Map 16, Parcel 280)

Proposed construction of a single-family dwelling and associated grading and utilities within the 100 foot buffer zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The applicant is J&F Marinella represented by Heritage Design Group, 1 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588.

Mark Anderson of Heritage Design Group explained that there are three markers on the limit of disturbance between the 50 and 100 foot buffer of the wetlands. The dwelling is as close to the road as possible. Grading will be up to 37 feet off the wetlands. Erosion controls will be placed as shown on the plan. There will be no grading in the front of the dwelling. Mr. Bradley suggested adding two markers at the limit of disturbance at the closest point of the dwelling to the wetland and halfway between that marker and the next one going towards the bottom of the plans. He also would like the markers to be permanent as they are so close to the wetland. They should be three feet underground and 30 inches above ground.

Motion made by Ms. Peckham and seconded by Mr. Bradley. The Conservation Commission voted 4-0 to close the Public Hearing.

Motion made by Ms. Peckham and seconded by Mr. Bradley. The Conservation Commission voted 4-0 to accept the plans entitled "The Camelot Conservation Site Plan Lot 64 Rebecca Road" dated October 9, 2012 and issue the Order of Conditions with the special conditions of adding two more wetland markers at the closest point of the dwelling to the wetland and halfway between that marker and the next one going towards the bottom of the plans and be made of granite or concrete with three feet subsurface and 30 inches above ground; and all the conditions of the Camelot subdivision.

MinutesJuly 11, 2012

Motion made by Mr. Bradley and seconded by Ms. Anderson. The Conservation Commission voted 3-0-1 (Ms. Peckham abstained) to accept the minutes of July 11, 2012 as written.

August 8, 2012

Motion made by Ms. Peckham and seconded by Ms. Anderson. The Conservation Commission voted 3-0-1 (Mr. Bradley abstained) to accept the minutes of August 8, 2012 as written.

Old / New Business(248-139) 76 Sutton Street – Request for Certificate of Compliance

The applicant has not contacted the Conservation Commission with any further information and the Conservation Commission has not received anything from DEP to-date. This item will be tabled to a future agenda until the information is received.

(248-583) 213 Tessier Lane – Request for Certificate of Compliance

The work was done a year ago and grass is growing in the disturbed area. The Conservation Commission members signed the Certificate of Compliance.

(248-538) Carpenter Estates - Discussion

Mark Anderson of Heritage Design Group explained that this subdivision was approved in 2006. They are now looking to change the drainage to a Low Impact Development (LID) project. Rather than using catch basins, it would be country style with grass swales, etc. The subdivision is for 18 lots and the pavement width will be maintained. Curbing would be eliminated but the sidewalks would remain. The applicant has already met with the DPW, Planning Board and has had several technical reviews that include JH Engineering. They are in support of the new drainage.

The first 500 feet that has the wetlands crossing will remain the same as already approved and will be maintained by the Town of Northbridge. The LID techniques would be for the balance of the roadway to the cul-de-sac and they believe this would work well. Mr. Anderson is here to hear what the Conservation Commission's thoughts are on the changes to LID.

The detention basin would still be there but it may be reshaped and possibly moved. A homeowners association would handle the maintenance of the grass swales, etc. because the DPW cleans catch basins once a year now and the cost went from \$8 to \$34 to dispose of the debris, etc. because it must now be brought to a sanctioned site. The homeowners association would repair any washouts, driveway crossings and swales. They also propose using common driveways as much as possible to eliminate pavement, curb cuts, etc.

Mr. Bradley wanted to know if the swales are designed to handle the 100 year storm. Mr. Anderson stated that it still needs to be designed and the drainage recalculated but it will be designed to meet the 100 year storm requirements. A Notice of Intent (NOI) will be filed with the Conservation Commission to review the changes to the project. Also a full peer review for the Planning Board will be done for a subdivision modification. The NOI will be filed with the Conservation Commission in about 4 to 6 weeks and they will be looking for an amended Order of Conditions. The Conservation Commission is amenable to consider the modifications.

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

Bill Dausey appeared before the Conservation Commission because he is interested in filling a vacancy. He is semi-retired and moved here five years ago. His career is in business with fortune 500 and start up companies. He teaches business at the University of Phoenix Worcester campus. He has been a strong environmentalist since the 1960's and wants to volunteer in that capacity. He loves rivers and has been on the Blackstone River Watershed Coalition board for two years. The Conservation Commission then explained what they do and the process for him to be appointed to the Conservation Commission.

Motion made by Ms. Peckham and seconded by Ms. Anderson. The Conservation Commission voted 4-0 to *adjourn the meeting* at or about 9:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE APPROVED: December 12, 2012

Barbara A. Kinney
Conservation Administrative Assistant