



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**7 MAIN STREET
WHITINSVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 01588
Telephone: (508) 234-0817
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Meeting Minutes May 22, 2013

Joy Anderson, Bill Dausey, John Brown, and Justin Arbuckle were present. Terry Bradley and Andrew Chagnon were absent. Barbara Kinney, Administrative Assistant was also present.

Mr. Brown opened the meeting at 7:00PM.

Citizen's Forum

Fowler Rd Pond - Phillip Simmons of 96 Fowler Road came to speak about an issue with a pond on Fowler Road next to 47 Fowler Road. He submitted pictures of the water and the illegal dam. He explained the history of the dam that in the late 1800's it was a farmers' pond. It became part of the Paul Whitin property and some of the land was sold off. He then explained that this pond is casually mentioned and the dam was removed by the Town back then (1930's). It was gone for many years and then in the late 1980's a duck pond was created by Charlie Caron. Mr. Caron trespassed to make the dam. The Conservation Commission (NCC) and other departments all failed to get Mr. Caron to remove the dam, per Mr. Simmons. Mr. Simmons said that Mr. Turgeon owns the land and he has a letter from the Town dated in 1991. Per Mr. Simmons, Mr. Turgeon is willing to let the Town remove the dam. Mr. Simmons wants to right the wrong. Mr. Simmons says it is an eyesore and a mosquito breeding ground. Mr. Simmons says you just need two scoops of earth moved to the side near 47 Fowler Road and that Mr. Turgeon wants to be notified before anything is done.

Ms. Anderson went to take a look at the site from the road and the pond was fairly dry at the time and observed no flooding. She also spoke with residents on Ash Street and they told her that there is no flooding except from stormwater runoff. The NCC explained that they would need something in writing from Mr. Turgeon or even better have him come to a meeting to discuss with the NCC. Ms. Kinney will inquire to the Town Manager if the DPW could go and remove the dam on private property. Mr. Arbuckle will research the implications of keeping / removing the dam.

342 Cooper Road – Oren Havey came to the meeting to discuss the addition that he wishes to build to his dwelling where the deck is located now. Wetlands border his land. The deck is 4" by 4" posts and the addition would be a full foundation. The land slopes to the wetland and the addition would be about 65 feet off the wetland. Mr. Arbuckle recommended that Mr. Havey file a Notice of Intent. Ms. Kinney gave Mr. Havey a blank Notice of Intent to fill out and return.

(03-RDA-2013) 354 Moon Hill Road (Map 29, Parcel 55)

Proposed removal of +/- 15-20 large trees and brush in several locations that are within falling distance of the dwelling, leveling of the yard, adding a sidewalk from the driveway to the front door and a path behind the dwelling. Applicant is Derek Bender, 354 Moon Hill Road.

Derek Bender was present and the NCC reviewed the general provisions for the amount of trees that Mr. Bender would like to remove.

Motion made by Mr. Arbuckle and seconded by Mr. Dausey. The Conservation Commission voted 4-0 to issue a negative determination with the condition that the NCC be notified 48 hours before the start of tree cutting and that the tree cutting occurs when the area is dry.

Mr. Bender stated he understood the approval pertained only to the specific areas proposed and that additional NCC approval is required if he wants to do any additional clearing in the future.

Minutes

May 8, 2013

Motion made by Mr. Dausey and seconded by Mr. Arbuckle. The NCC voted 4-0 to approve the May 8, 2013 minutes with changes.

Old / New Business

248-586 – Whitin Wellfield – Request for Certificate of Compliance

Ms. Anderson went and viewed the site. The erosion controls can be removed and the NCC signed the Certificate of Compliance.

Shining Rock Open Space – Ms. Kinney explained that this open space has been cleaned up in the past by the NCC. The NCC thinks this may be a bit much for them to handle at this time, but suggested that maybe it could be a community project for the boy scouts. A letter will be sent from the NCC to the boy scouts asking them if they are interested.

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

Motion made by Mr. Dausey and seconded by Mr. Arbuckle. The NCC voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at or about 8:47PM.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE APPROVED:

Barbara A. Kinney
Conservation Administrative Assistant