



## **TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**7 MAIN STREET  
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### **Meeting Minutes May 14, 2014**

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

Mr. Chagnon opened the meeting at 7:30PM and stated that the Conservation Commission (NCC) does not have a quorum tonight. Everything will be rescheduled to the May 28, 2014 agenda and the NCC will start the meeting at 6:00PM. The NCC members present can listen to anything informal on the agenda tonight, but cannot make any formal decisions.

#### **Citizen's Forum**

None

#### **Old / New Business**

##### Whitinsville Christian School . Informal Discussion

Paul Hutnak of Andrews Engineering wanted to know what permitting would be needed to install a gas line from the street to the school. It will run along the grass near the cemetery property and cut across the parking lot. Across the street is the section of the Mumford River called Linwood Pond and there is also a wetland between the school and the cemetery property towards the back of the properties.

Mr. Chagnon reminded Mr. Hutnak that due to a lack of a quorum that he is running the risk of what is suggested tonight may be a different view than what a quorum will require when he comes back. Mr. Chagnon suggested that a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for this project should be sufficient and Mr. Arbuckle and Ms. Anderson agree. Mr. Hutnak filled out the (WPA Form 1) RDA and submitted it tonight so it could get on the May 28, 2014 agenda.

##### 1201 Quaker Street Landfill . Solar Farm Discussion

Mr. Arbuckle recused himself and left the room because he works for a competitor of the applicant. Mr. Chagnon explained to the applicant that there have been concerns expressed from the abutters regarding the informal discussions. However, the NCC has informal discussions with residents / applicants all the time. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) even encourages us to do so. The NCC cannot deliberate on facts or make decisions at this time. A submittal must be filed first. Mr. Chagnon noted that the NCC has not denied public input in the past.

The applicant is looking to extend past the 100 year floodplain and will need to file with the Army Corps. Of Engineers, DEP, and the NCC. The applicant is looking for guidance

before spending time and money if at the town level the project would possibly be approved. They would waste their time then going to DEP and the Army Corps. Of Engineers. They are looking for a basic understanding before pursuing this with DEP and the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA). The NCC explained that this project will probably trip the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) too. The applicant stated that he understands that it will be an extensive filing with multiple agencies.

The applicant explained the solar farm over the landfill will need approximately 50 feet of fill as the landfill is at about 250 feet elevation and they need to make it level. The applicant explained that the fill would be from a cranberry bog in Norton. Portions of the project are in the 100 year floodplain, 200 foot riverfront and 100 foot wetland buffer. Ms. Anderson commented that Mr. Dausey and she have visited the site and pretty significant work needs to be done in the back as the land does drop off pretty quickly.

Jon Dabelstein, 1222 Quaker Street, is directly across the street from the landfill and is here to listen. He wants to know about the solar glare and the applicant stated that the panels would be south facing at a 30 degree angle away from the homes.

Mr. Chagnon's opinion of the project with limited information is it will be an extremely hard sell. The applicant must provide compensatory storage which will be difficult to find. Also, work within the inner 100 foot riparian zone of the 200 foot riverfront is particularly difficult to meet the stringent requirements. The applicant would have a difficult time to overcome the restrictions. Mr. Chagnon suggests the applicant review the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) with a detailed review of the Rivers Protection Act (RPA). DEP will look at habitat loss and replication too. Mr. Chagnon suggests focusing on what damage will be done to the environment. The applicant stated he will look at the damage and go over the site as to exactly what they have.

Mr. Chagnon explained that the NCC could require more detailed information once they receive the submittal. Mr. Chagnon recommends that a survey be done as to whether it would be economical and environmentally possible with a focus on how to meet the 100 year WPA and RPA regulations.

The applicant explained that the leach pond does overflow extensively sometimes. He wants to clean up the debris / trash back there. He is in favor of stopping where DEP says they can go and it is in the public safety's interest to keep the river clean as leaching is being done, per Mr. Trainor. There are some oil drums throughout the property and he submitted photos.

### **Other**

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

Motion made by Mr. Chagnon and seconded by Mr. Arbuckle. The NCC voted 3-0 to adjourn the meeting on or about 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Kinney  
Conservation Administrative Assistant