

TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**7 MAIN STREET
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NORTHBRIDGE TOWN CLERK
DORIS A. DEBONO

Meeting Minutes September 23, 2015

Bill Dausey, Gerry Ouillette, Justin Arbuckle and Rich Chiras were present. Cindy Campbell, Joy Anderson and Jeremy Deorsey were absent. Barbara Kinney, Administrative Assistant was also present.

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

Citizen's Forum

Richard Auger of 393 Linwood Avenue explained that Linwood Pond is being overrun by weeds and brought in a sample. He has done some research and believes that it is water chestnut, which is an invasive species. Mr. Auger wanted to know if funds were available through the town or grant money, etc. to remove them. The NCC stated that there are no Town funds, but will look into any grants or if any other options are available.

(248-625) 342 Cooper Road (Map 20, Parcel 11)

Proposed construction of a 30 foot by 24 foot addition to the existing dwelling within the buffer zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The applicant is Oren Havey represented by Heritage Design Group, 1 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588.

Eric Bazzett, Heritage Design Group, explained that DEP has issued the file number. The revised plans show the marker locations. They are proposing the markers at 40 to 50 feet apart because there would be too many markers if placed at 20 foot intervals. The house was built in the 1940s or 1950s. The lawn has been there for years.

Motion made by Mr. Ouillette and seconded by Mr. Arbuckle. The NCC voted 4-0 to close the Public Hearing.

Motion made by Mr. Ouillette and seconded by Mr. Chiras. The NCC voted 4-0 to accept the plan entitled "Conservation Plan 342 Cooper Road" dated August 10, 2014 with a revision date of August 31, 2015.

Mr. Dausey signed the permit application. The Order of Conditions will be signed at the end of the meeting.

(02-RDA-2015) 1405 Quaker Street (Map 28, Parcel 6)

Proposed harvesting of timber from the wooded wetland lot associated with the property. The timber collected (3 to 5 cords) will be used for the sole purpose of a primary heating

source of the dwelling. The applicant is Melissa Fossbender, 1405 Quaker Street, Northbridge, MA 01534.

The applicant has requested a continuance because they are not ready yet.

Motion made by Mr. Arbuckle and seconded by Mr. Chiras. The NCC voted 4-0 to continue the Public Meeting to October 14, 2015 at 7:05PM.

Whitinsville Christian School, 279 Linwood Avenue (Map 14, Parcel 5)

Proposed construction of a 214 space bituminous parking area with associated grading and stormwater management. The applicant is Whitinsville Christian School represented by Andrews Survey & Engineering, PO Box 312, 104 Mendon Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569.

The proof of mailing to abutters has been received. DEP has not issued a file number yet.

Paul Hutnak, Andrews Survey & Engineering, explained that the proposed parking lot is in the buffer zone. The proposed new building is outside NCC jurisdiction. They are proposing 214 parking spaces. The resource area is basically a stream channel that connects two wetland areas. One row of parking will fall within the 50 to 100 foot buffer zone. There will be landscape islands to limit the grade in the parking area before the topography drops off to the wetlands. There will also be an infiltration basin located in the buffer zone. The parking lot drainage will be collected into catch basins that will flow to the forebay of riprap gabions then to the detention basin. The outlet structure of the detention basin will flow to the wetlands. This will be slower than what comes in and it will be filtered before reaching the wetlands. There will be erosion controls along the 35 foot no-disturb area of straw wattles and silt fence. Per the NCC's request, Mr. Hutnak then explained how he arrived at the curve to calculate the drainage to match the peak rate.

The NCC would like to schedule a site visit. Mr. Hutnak will check with the school on what date / time would be good for them. 4:30-5:00ish would be best for the NCC. Mr. Hutnak will get Ms. Kinney a couple of dates with September 30 as a tentative date to schedule the site visit.

Motion made by Mr. Arbuckle and seconded by Mr. Chiras. The NCC voted 4-0 to continue the Public Hearing to October 14, 2015 at 7:10PM.

Old / New Business

136 Mendon Road – Need to file?

Robert and Elizabeth Morley explained that the proposed porch is about 90 feet away from the wetland. They want to know if they need to file anything with the NCC. The porch will have auger footings and it is in a previously disturbed area. The NCC reviewed the request and determined that it will be minimal construction and will encroach only about 12 feet into the wetland buffer zone. The property is fairly flat with a gentle slope except in one area where the slope is steep. The NCC determined that no filing is needed and Mr. Dausey signed the permit application.

Forest Cutting Plan – Discussion

Ms. Kinney explained what the forest cutters plan to do. The original submittal was for one forest cutting plan. However, shortly thereafter, a change to that plan and two additional plans were submitted for property all abutting each other. The reason for the three plans is because they are different owners. The total acreage to be harvested is approximately 263 acres.

The first submittal is owned by TSE Development, LLC that contains two stands. Stand 1 will have 60% of poor and good trees to be cut. They will be 14 inch diameter breast height (DBH) or greater. Stand 2 will have 70% poor trees to be cut. They will be 8 inch DBH or greater. The regeneration for Stand 1 will be protected by directional felling and obtained by residual sand, stump sprouts and acorn crop. Stand 2 will regenerate by protection of directional felling and obtained by stump sprouts and acorn crop.

The second submittal is owned by WRT Redevelopment Trust that contains two stands. Stand 1 will be harvested using a 14 inch DBH or greater on both hardwood and softwood. Stand 2 will have 60% poor to average trees cut. They will be 12 inch DBH or greater. The regeneration for Stand 1 will be protected by directional felling and occur from mature white pine of 12 trees per acre or greater and acorn crop and stump sprouts. Stand 2 will regenerate by protection of directional felling and occur from stump sprouts and acorn crop.

The third submittal is owned by Trimount Trust that contains one stand. The Stand will have 60% of poor to average trees to be cut. They will be 12 inch DBH or greater. The regeneration will be protected by directional felling and obtained from natural seed from White Pine along with Oak stump sprouts and acorns.

Ms. Kinney spoke to Guy LaChance at the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and he confirmed the process that is listed in the MA Forestry Best Management Practices Manual is the current process. Once the cutting plans are approved by DCR there will be orange Certificates posted on trees with his contact information listed. Mr. LaChance explained that by them filing a forest cutting plan, they fall under Chapter 132 and are exempt from the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) (Chapter 131), National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and the local stormwater bylaw. There may be other exemptions as well. Chapter 132 allows the harvest with no change in land use.

Ms. Kinney asked about a time limit before there could be a change in land use. Mr. LaChance said that the filter strip areas around the wetlands are allowed 50% of forest cutting and then they cannot touch the area for 5 years. If there is habitat that falls under the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP) on the property then the owner should carefully consider whether to forest cut or not because the forest cutting could impinge on any future developmental plans. It would be considered project segmentation. However, these particular properties do not have any NHESP habitat. For any other type of property, the rules and regulations are vague as to when any developmental plans could be implemented after the forest cutting.

The NCC discussed the plans and have the following comments that need to be sent to Mr. LaChance at DCR: there may be some old structures from the 1700's that the

Historical Commission may be interested in. Mr. Ouillette believes it was called Driscolls Crossing and the wetlands may be more extensive than what is shown on the plans.

Burdon Pond – Mail Review

The NCC reviewed the mail. The NCC accepts the withdrawal request of the water motor.

(248-470) Hemlock Estates – Extension Request to OOC

Mr. Dausey recused himself because he lives in Pine Knoll. There is no quorum to vote on the extension request. This will be postponed to the next meeting of October 14, 2015.

(248-592) Sutton Street – Extension Request to OOC

Motion made by Mr. Ouillette and seconded by Mr. Arbuckle. The NCC voted 4-0 to extend the OOC for one year.

Enforcement Actions

None

Minutes

None

Executive Session

None

Other

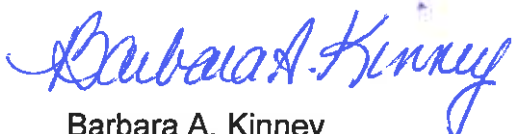
The NCC members present performed administrative tasks (signed Orders, etc.) that were needed.

The Building Inspector mentioned to Ms. Kinney that someone from Castle Hill Road may come and ask the NCC about installing a 100 foot by 200 foot pond on +/-10 acres of land for geothermal use and whether they need a permit. The NCC is not sure if a permit is needed to create a resource area and suggested reaching out to the Circuit Rider for guidance. Ms. Kinney will contact her.

Mr. Dausey mentioned that an Eagle Scout candidate is looking to do a project at Shining Rock to correct the erosion issues there. Mr. Dausey will find out more information and invite the candidate to come to a meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Arbuckle and seconded by Mr. Chiras. The NCC voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting on or about 9:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara A. Kinney
Conservation Administrative Assistant

DATE APPROVED:



September 23, 2015

CONSERVATION MAIL LIST

FROM	DATE	SUBJECT
Howard Fease	8/27/15	Email – Information on Pump
Planning Office	8/26/15	Email – Osterman Commerce Park Modif. Approval
Mann's Forest Land Mgmt.	8/16/15	Forest Cutting Plan Route 122 (Providence Road)
Planning Board	8/26/15	Osterman Commerce Park Phase I Mod Approval
Planning Board	8/26/15	2015 FATM Highland Street Land Donation
Howard Fease	9/1/15	Email Burdon Pond Dam
Howard Fease	9/3/15	Email Burdon Pond
Howard Fease	9/3/15	Email Burdon Pond
Howard Fease	9/3/15	Email Burdon Pond
Howard Fease	9/3/15	Email Burdon Pond
Howard Fease	9/4/15	Email Burdon Pond (Complaint)
Howard Fease	9/4/15	Email Burdon Pond
Howard Fease	9/7/15	Email Burdon Pond
Howard Fease	9/8/15	Email Burdon Pond
Heritage Design Group	8/31/15	Email – Revised Plans and Aerial Photos
Howard Fease	9/9/15	Email Burdon Pond Open Complaints
Tighe & Bond	Rec'd 9/14/15	Topographic Map of Mumford River/Arcade Pond
Howard Fease	9/14/15	Email – Complaint Resolved
JH Engineering	9/15/15	Email – Carpenter Estates Construction Obser. Report
JH Engineering	9/14/15	Carpenter Estates Construction Observation Report
Planning Board	9/9/15	Continue Subdivision Rules & Regs Public Hearing
Planning Board	9/9/15	Continue Main Street Commercial Public Hearing
JH Engineering	9/3/115	Carpenter Estates Site Visit
National Grid	9/4/15	Interstate Reliability Project Update 34
JH Engineering	9/15/15	Leonardo Estates Construction Observation Report
Howard Fease	9/16/15	Dam Maintenance – Hand Chinking
MSMCP	9/10/15	Email – Executive Order 562 & Other Events
Brett Mann	Rec'd 9/18/15	Forest Cutting Plan Providence Road (Change)
Brett Mann	Rec'd 9/18/15	Forest Cutting Plan Providence Road
Brett Mann	Rec'd 9/18/15	Forest Cutting Plan Church St & Rte 122
Howard Fease	9/18/15	Email – Any complaints
JH Engineering	9/16/15	Shining Rock Fairway Dr Construction Report
CMRPC	9/17/15	Trail & Canoe Launch Grant Application
AECOM	9/21/15	Email – Sutton St OOC Extension Request
National Grid	9/18/15	Interstate Reliability Project Update #35
Planning Board	9/23/15	Douglas Rd Withdrawal (Composting Facility)
Planning Board	9/23/15	Presidential Farms Disapproval

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS USED AT MEETING

- Linwood Pond (September 2015) Water Chestnut Invasive Aquatic Plant Documents