



## **TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE**

# **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**7 MAIN STREET  
WHITINSVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 01588  
Telephone: (508) 234-0817  
FAX: (508) 234-0814**

### **Meeting Minutes January 19, 2011**

Wyatt Mills, Andrew Chagnon, and Terry Bradley were present. Cheryl Peckham and Bill Freer were absent. Barbara Kinney, Administrative Assistant was also present.

Mr. Mills opened the meeting at 7:13PM. (Waiting for a quorum).

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

There was no one present for Citizen's Forum.

#### **(248-577) 2542 Providence Road (Map 25, Parcel 74)**

Proposed repair of the septic system within 100 feet of a wetland, but more than 50 feet. The applicant is David Packard represented by Bertin Engineering Association, Inc., 39 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Mike Loin of Bertin Engineering was present and explained that this is a repair to an existing septic system. The lot is narrow and some of the work will be in the 100 foot buffer zone of an intermittent stream. This is also next to a wooded area. This property is just outside the priority habitat area.

According to Mr. Loin, the Board of Health has reviewed the plan and Mr. Malley conveyed to him that it is all set and approved. The work will be done in the Spring. Mr. Chagnon suggested adding hay bales to the silt fence line for erosion controls.

The Conservation Commission reviewed with Mr. Loin the Commission's standard conditions to indicate which ones would apply to this project.

Motion made by Mr. Chagnon and seconded by Mr. Bradley. The Conservation Commission voted 3-0 to close the Public Hearing.

Motion made by Mr. Chagnon and seconded by Mr. Bradley. The Conservation Commission voted 3-0 to approve the plan entitled "Subsurface Disposal System 2542 Providence Road Northbridge, MA' dated September 27, 2010 with the

conditions from attachment 3 and the hay bales added to the silt fence line as depicted on the plan for erosion controls.

## **Minutes**

### October 13, 2010

There was no quorum to approve these minutes.

### November 10, 2010

Motion made by Mr. Bradley and seconded by Mr. Mills. The Conservation Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of November 10, 2010 as written.

### December 8, 2010

Motion made by Mr. Chagnon and seconded by Mr. Bradley. The Conservation Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of December 8, 2010 as written.

## **Old / New Business**

### Solar Energy Project

Paul Hutnak of Heritage Design Group wanted to speak informally to the Conservation Commission on a solar energy project that will be submitted for approval in the future. The project will be located on Douglas Road near the Berkowitz Trucking facility and New England Power for a solar farm producing about ½ megawatt of energy. The site is approximately seven acres with some wetlands located there. Mr. Hutnak stated no real grading will be done to the site just mostly grubbing and stumping. The property is located within the riverfront area however it is considered redevelopment of the property as it is a historic mill area. The Conservation Commission noted that proper documentation must be provided with the submittal. They then wanted to know if the owner of the property is The Shop and Mr. Hutnak confirmed that it is.

Since the solar panels need to be facing almost South, Mr. Hutnak wanted to know if some of the wetlands could be filled and how close to the wetlands could the panels be located. Some trees will need to be cleared consisting mostly of poplar trees. Mr. Mills asked if it is feasible to fill in the two small wetland pockets and replicate those areas further to the back of the property. Mr. Hutnak said yes. Mr. Chagnon questioned the whether the smaller areas are hydraulically connected to the larger wetland. Mr. Chagnon wanted to know how much access would be needed for maintenance, etc. of these panels and what the panels would look like. Mr. Mills wanted to know what the plantings would be and what will the maintenance requirements be such as mowing, etc. The Conservation Commission decided that a site visit might be best to confirm the nature and condition of the wetland and how much of a value the wetland is.

### Release of Executive Session Minutes

Mr. Mills reviewed the list of approved Executive Session minutes and determined that none can be released at this time.

**Other**

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

Motion made by Mr. Chagnon and seconded by Mr. Bradley. The Conservation Commission voted 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:27PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Kinney  
Conservation Administrative Assistant