

**Minutes**  
**Northampton Conservation Commission**  
**Hearing Room 18, City Hall, Northampton, Mass.**  
**Feb. 25, 2016**

Members	Present	Time
Kevin Lake, Chair	x	
Mason Maronn	x	
Tim Parshall	x	
Tricia McGovern		
Jack Finn	x	
t.b.a.		
t.b.a.		
Staff	Present	Time
Sarah LaValley	x	
Aleta DeLisle	x	

<i>Meeting Opened At:</i>	<i>By:</i>
5:30 p.m.	Kevin

<i>Minutes Approved:</i>	<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i>Unanimous:</i>
Jan. 14, 2016 Regular Session	Jack	Mason	All in favor
Jan. 14, 2016 Executive Session	Jack	Mason	All in favor

**Order of Business:**

**5:30 PM – Public Hearing:** Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if demo of a barn and lean to, removal of driveway, and construction of studio/storage space and patio are subject to the Wetlands Protection Act or Northampton Wetlands Ordinance. Douglas Benton & Kate Geis. Map ID 38C-3, 194 Grove St.

Kate Geis represented the project and reviewed plans to demolish the existing barn and create a one story structure in the back of the house for a studio/storage space. A patio will also be constructed and she stated that the existing driveway turnaround will be torn up. The Commission suggested that lawn or bulky gravel be installed where the driveway turnaround will be removed. The Commission stated that erosion control be placed 5’ from the top of the bank during the work.

Upon motion by Tim and second by Jack, the Commission voted all in favor to close the hearing. Upon motion by Tim and second by Jack, the Commission voted all in favor to recommend staff recommendations and issue a Negative Determination by checking Box 3 with standard conditions and that erosion control be placed 5’ from the top of the bank along with replacing blacktop with something permeable.

**5:45 – Public Hearing:** Amend Conservation Commission Land Use Regulations:

- Add Wilderness Camping as an allowed activity at Elwell Island
- Remove hunting as an allowed activity at the ‘Abuza’ section of Fitzgerald Lake

Sarah stated that the City Council has removed the requirement that hunting be allowed on the Abuza section at Fitzgerald Lake. Rob Zimmerman, BBC, stated that he was happy that City Council removed the requirement and will post “No Hunting” signs at Fitzgerald Lake. Upon motion by Mason and second by Tim, the Commission voted all in favor to prohibit hunting on the Abuza section at Fitzgerald Lake.

Upon motion by Tim and second by Jack, the Commission voted all in favor to allow wilderness camping with a platform at Elwell Island at designated areas. Sarah will visit Elwell Island in the spring to determine what areas will be allowed.

Request for Certificate of Compliance: 36 Sovereign Way, Map ID 36-242, DEP File 246-532.

Sarah stated that the Order of Conditions for 36 Sovereign Way was issued thirteen years ago and that she performed a site visit and said it was in compliance. Upon motion by Tim and second by Jack, the Commission voted all in favor to issue a Certificate of Compliance.

Review of Mail.

Sarah stated that a resident of Brierwood Drive will come before the Commission in the spring to discuss restoration from ATV use.

Sarah noted that the Pleasant St. roundabout work will be starting in March of this year.

Sarah stated that the Packaging Corp. of America work as well as the Bridge Replacement at I-91 is not under the Commission’s purview.

All other business not foreseen when agenda was published.

Jack reviewed Conservation Commission projects that have gone before the CPC and will be asking the Commission about priorities for the projects.

<i>Meeting Adjourned:</i>	<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i>Unanimous:</i>
6:05 p.m.	Tim	Mason	All in favor