

**Minutes**  
**Northampton Conservation Commission**  
**Hearing Room 18, City Hall, Northampton, Mass.**  
**April 28, 2016**

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

<i>Meeting Opened At:</i> 5:31 p.m.	<i>By:</i> Kevin
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*Minutes Approved:*    *Motion By:*                      *Second By:*                      *Unanimous:*  
None

**Order of Business:**

**5:30 PM: Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if resource area boundaries are accurately delineated and if the area is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act or Northampton Wetlands Ordinance. Mahi Swan, 471 Coles Mdw Rd, Map ID 3-08**

Consultant Emily Stockman stated that the property is 12 acres, comprised mainly of upland mixed deciduous forest, with a small shrub swamp in the northwest corner. Sarah stated that she visited the site and agrees with the delineation. Mason moved to issue a positive determination by checking boxes 1 and 5, to indicate that the area is subject to the WPA and Ordinance, and box 2a, to confirm that the resource areas as shown on plans are accurate. Seconded by Jack, the motion carried unanimously. An abutter asked about future development plans for the property. Emily stated that she is not sure.

**5:40 PM: Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if resource area boundaries are accurately delineated and if the area is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act or Northampton Wetlands Ordinance. TJDL Development, Rt 66, Map ID 41-70**

Consultant Emily Stockman stated that the owners of the property are planning a future development, and would like boundary confirmation for planning purposes. No work will be conducted on the western side of the property, so no flags were placed there.

Mason asked if there are wetlands off of the property but near the parcel boundaries. Emily replied that the flagging continues off of the property boundary. Sarah noted that there is a common driveway to the west, but that it can't be used for access to these lots.

Jack moved to issue a positive determination by checking boxes 1 and 5, to indicate that the area is subject to the WPA and Ordinance, and box 2a, to confirm that the resource areas as shown on plans are accurate. Also per staff recommendation, note that the A series wetland is isolated, and is not subject to the MWPA, and that this series includes additional areas to the west that were not flagged. Seconded by Mason, the motion carried unanimously.

Updates:

Sarah stated that she has been conducting some invasive control work at Parsons Brook with Laurie Sanders, and visited Cardinal Way with the Department of Public Works to investigate whether there are any ways to improve amphibian and reptile crossings.

**5:50 PM: Request for Determination of Applicability to Determine if walking trail expansion is subject to the Northampton Wetlands Ordinance and MA Wetlands Protection Act. Cutchins Center. Off Pomeroy Terrace. Map IDs 32A322 and 223**

Paul Wetzel and Joe Bender provided an overview of the project. Cutchins received a grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation for accessible trail expansion.

Jack asked about plans for soil removal. Joe stated that this will only be done on existing path areas. Landscaping fabric will be installed on the path, with stonedust on top. Paul noted that most of the material to be removed are wood chips, and that the trail won't create any new crossings of wet areas. Cutchins hopes to create a self-guided walking tour with a brochure.

Mason asked about homeless camping. Joe replied that there have been some issues over the years, and that Cutchins speaks with campers and calls the police if necessary.

Kevin noted that the overall area of disturbance will not be increasing.

Mason moved to issue a negative determination by checking box 3. Conditions added to require that excavated material shall not be dumped in floodplain areas. The motion carried unanimously.

**6:10 PM: Request for Determination of Applicability to Determine if removal and management of non-native invasive plants is subject to the Northampton Wetlands Ordinance and Wetlands Protection Act. Lathrop Communities, Florence Rd, Map ID 44-05**

Jan Grace, Fran Volkmann and Barbara Walwood presented an overview of the project; invasive plant control along Bassett Brook. Fran distributed a map of work Lathrop is proposing at its properties in Easthampton and Northampton. This is a three-year project, and the contractor will use cut-stem herbicide application and mechanical treatments.

Barbara noted that the Bridge Road project has begun, with another follow-up scheduled for summer 2016. Kevin asked about the results of foliar spraying as part of that project.

Barbara replied that there have been no visible signs of damage to adjacent plants.

Mason asked about the choice to keep woody debris onsite. Barbara stated that removal offsite would be challenging and costly, and resprouting will be treated as needed.

Mason moved to issue a negative determination by checking box 2 to indicate that the work is within an area subject to protection, but will not remove dredge fill or alter said area.

Require notification 48 hours prior to work being done, and again when complete each year, and require copies of all monitoring reports.

Mason moved not to recommend that the City exercise a right of first refusal for a parcel of land being sold on Route 66. Seconded by Jack, the motion carried unanimously.

**6:30 PM: Continuation - Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if there are any areas subject to the Wetlands Protection Act or Northampton Wetlands Ordinance on the parcels described below. James O’Grady. Map IDs 23C-24, 109, 110 & 111, 43, 51, 57 & 65 Baker Hill Road**

The Commission agreed that a determination cannot be made about the distance to wetlands on an adjacent property due to insufficient information being presented, so a determination cannot be issued. Staff will return the application with an explanatory letter.

**Executive Session under MGL C 30A §21(6) to 'Consider the Purchase, Exchange, Lease or Value of Real Property' for interests in conservation lands.**

By roll call vote, the Commission entered into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m, without a return to regular session. By roll call vote, the Commission adjourned Executive Session and adjourned at 6:40 PM

<i>Meeting Adjourned:</i>	<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i>Unanimous:</i>
6:40 p.m.	Mason	Jack	All in favor