

Minutes
Northampton Conservation Commission
Hearing Room 18, City Hall, Northampton, Mass.
July 28, 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>
May 26, 2016	Mason	Tim	All in Favor

Order of Business:

5:30 PM Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if replacement of an existing restroom structure is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act or Northampton Wetlands Ordinance. Shawn Porter, Look Mem. Park, 300 N. Main St, Florence, Map ID 16A-002.

Shawn Porter, Exec. Director, Look Memorial Park represented the project. Shawn stated that the restroom was built in the 1940's and are looking to replace them in the exact location by taking the old one out and installing a new prefabricated building noting there will be no significant change to the footprint. Shawn stated that a lot of the demolition will be done by hand and is anticipating construction in 2018.

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 issue a Negative Determination of Applicability by Checking Box 2 with the following conditions: final plans are to be submitted to the Commission prior to work; notify Commission 48 hours prior to the start of work and again when work is complete; erosion control required as shown on plans.

5:45 PM Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if resurfacing, rebuilding drainage structure, bridge repairs, tree trimming, and other maintenance work on I-91 is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. MassDOT.

Robert Natereo, MassDOT represented the project. Robert stated they are proposing improvements on I-91 including resurfacing, tree trimming, line painting and other maintenance. Sarah asked about invasive species. Robert stated that there will be mandatory invasive species removal in every project. Mason inquired as to the method of removal. Robert stated that they meet or specialists come in and review it with the contractor. Upon motion by Tim and second by Jack the Commission voted all in favor to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability by Checking Box 3 with the following conditions: require erosion control where work is within the buffer zones and 48 hr. notification prior to the start of work and when work is complete.

5:55 PM Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if construction of a single family home is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act or Northampton Wetlands Ordinance. Patricia Abbott, Landy Ave, Map ID 23c-006.

Mike Lui of Berkshire Design and Eric James represented the project. The Commission reviewed the plans and reviewed the location of the house and the slope. Mike reviewed the location of wetlands. Mike discussed the planting plan with native plantings. Kevin stated that there needs to be a permanent barrier to protect the 35' buffer zone.

Upon motion by Tim and second by Mason the Commission voted all in favor to close the hearing. Upon motion by Tim and second by Jack the Commission issued a Negative Determination of Applicability by Checking Box 3 with the following conditions: demarcation of the No Disturb zone with 3'x5' boulders across the 35' line. No build zone shown on plans to remain vegetated. Adding wetland appropriate trees/plantings within the buffer zone. Detailed house plans to be submitted prior to construction. Erosion control required during construction. Native plantings in 35' buffer zone to be planted by hand.

6:10 PM Notice of Intent for River Road retaining wall repairs. Work to take place in riverfront area, land under water, and bordering land subject to flooding to the Mill River. Northampton DPW, River Road, Leeds.

Tom Jenkins and Kasie Collins of GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. and David Veleta, DPW represented the project. Tom stated that they propose to remove and replace the wall due to deterioration as it is no longer cost effective to repair. Tom reviewed what parts of the wall are in the resource areas and noted that the replacement wall will be several hundred feet shorter than the existing wall.

Tom mentioned that Natural Heritage wants a turtle protection plan while work is taking place. Tom will go to bid immediately and wants to finish most of the construction this season.

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 issue an Order of Conditions with standard conditions and to include Natural Heritage comments and submit a turtle protection plan to the Commission.

6:30 PM Notice of Intent bank stabilization and stream channel structure realignment. Work to take place in land under water, bordering land subject to flooding and riverfront area to Roberts Meadow Brook. Northampton DPW, parcel IDs 10-006 and 009, 10B-103 and 15-001 .

Tom Jenkins and Kasie Collins, GZA and David Veleta, DPW represented the project. The applicant requested a continuance of the hearing. Upon motion Tim and second by Jack the

Commission voted all in favor to continue the hearing until August 25th if the Commission meets on that date.

6:45 PM Notice of Intent for roadway reconstruction, including utility and culvert replacement. Work to take place in riverfront area to Day Brook. Northampton DPW. work to occur place in Audubon Road right of way and easements. DEP File 246-0696.

Melissa Coady of Tighe and Bond and David Veleta, DPW represented the project. Melissa reviewed the locations of work and noted work is not in protected habitat and there are no vernal pools. Melissa stated that they will replace the deteriorated culvert and no longer functioning weir and reviewed DEP comments. A portion of the work is already permitted from the generic Order of Conditions. David stated that they will start work in the spring or later. Melissa noted that they won't be doing work in open or moving water.

Bob Bernich, Audubon Rd. stated that he would like to have the pond dredged and wants the dam to stay. He noted the dam is concrete and not stone. Melissa stated that excavation work could cause the weir to collapse so that's why they're removing it and noted it's located in the City's right of way. Another resident was concerned that there is a pipe that drains his cellar into the brook and if it breaks water will be in his cellar. Kevin referred him to speak with David Veleta.

Upon motion by Tim and second by Mason 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 issue an Order of Conditions with standard conditions and required that erosion control be put in place and to notify the Commission 48 hrs. prior to the beginning of work and again at completion of work so staff can track/inspect any stream diversion and erosion control.

7:00 PM Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if construction of an addition to a single family home is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act or Northampton Wetlands Ordinance. Valley Home Improvement, 103 Woods Road, Map ID 29-585.

Steve Silverman, Valley Home Improvement represented the project. Steve stated that they are proposing a 24' addition with deck and reviewed the location of the silt fence and wetland area. The deck will be on piers. Mason stated that this is an isolated wetland. Kevin stated the work will be done with a small excavator. Upon motion by Mason 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 issue a Negative Determination of Applicability by Checking Box 3 and Box 6. The Commission noted that the wetland boundaries have not been confirmed in the buffer zone but won't create any harm. The applicant must submit detailed house plans prior to the preconstruction meeting.

7:10 PM Notice of Intent for trail creation, wildlife blind construction, invasive plant control and periodic mowing. Work to take place in buffer zone and riverfront area to Broad Brook. Broad Brook Coalition, parcel ID 6-13, Beaver Brook/Broad Brook Cons. Area.

Robert Zimmerman, BBC represented the project. Bob stated that there is a six acre strip between beaver brook and rte. 9 and is proposing to enhance the wildlife there and have a nice area for the public. Bob is proposing to clean up the debris and put in two trails, picnic tables and a wildlife blind. Bob stated they received permission from DPW to park on the grounds of the erosion control facility. Bob wants to brush hog two acres of the strip. There is wood turtle priority habitat but brush hogging wouldn't take place while turtles are active and nesting. Bob stated that he is interested in doing invasive species removal and possibly placing a kiosk and placards at the site.

Sarah stated that the trail work can be a redevelopment project and noted that herbicide treatment has already been approved by the Commission. Laurie Sanders stated that she did an inventory of the property and agrees that it's a nice location for a wildlife blind and parklet with easy access. The Commission discussed with the applicant whether gravel should be placed in the new parking area and gave their approval if they needed to use it.

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 Mason the Commission voted all in favor to issue an Order of Conditions with standard conditions including Natural Heritage comments and a continuing condition to allow annual mowing as proposed.

7:20 : Public Hearing : Amend Land Use Regulations for the Mill River Greenway to allow reasonable uses, reasonable limits, enable enforcement, and prevent abuse.

Jason Johnson, Main St., Leeds discussed with the Commission the trash/debris along various locations along the Mill River Greenway. Jason stated that he's picked up trash and that there's 100-200 people a day at different locations including some out of town/out of state folks. Sarah stated that the Commission should incorporate Leeds Mill River Greenway Regulations into the Land Use Regulations in order to prevent abuse and make it enforceable. The Commission also clarified Collecting, Foraging, Cutting and Planting regulations. Upon motion by Jack and second by Mason the Commission voted all in favor to approve the revised Land Use Regulations.

Other Items:

Elwell Island: Approve 'No Wake Zone' sign, Paddlers Trail Camping Update. Sarah stated that a "No Wake Zone" sign should be placed on the north side of Elwell Island due to the speed of motor boats and to protect the new dock. Upon motion by Mason and second by Tim the Commission voted all in favor to issue the "No Wake Zone" sign.

Approve Leeds Mill River Access Acquisition. Sarah stated the City's approached Chartpak to acquire some land at the Mill River.

The City is looking to acquire 20 acres of land for \$43,600. to connect North Farms Rd. with Beaver Brook/Broad Brook, Map ID 7-2.

Upon motion by Tim and second by Jack the Commission voted all in favor to continue to negotiate two land acquisitions. The Commission will want to have final approval.

All other business not foreseen when agenda was published.

Sarah discussed with the Commission where the Paddlers Platform will be located on the Connecticut River that had previously been approved in concept.

Sarah noted that Tricia has resigned from the Commission.

<i>Meeting Adjourned:</i>	<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i>Unanimous:</i>
8:30 p.m.	Tim	Jack	All In Favor