

Minutes
Northampton Conservation Commission
Hearing Room 18, City Hall, Northampton, Mass.
Sept. 8, 2016

Members	Present	Time
Kevin Lake, Chair	X	
Mason Maronn	X	
Tim Parshall	X	
Jack Finn		
Jason Perry	X	
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>
7/28/2016	Tim	Mason	All in favor with minor correction

Order of Business:

5:30 PM: Continuation- Notice of Intent for 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. *The applicant has requested a continuation, with no discussion to be held at this time, until October 27, 2016, at 5:30 PM.*

Upon motion by Tim and second by Mason the Commission voted all in favor to continue the hearing until October 27th at 5:30 p.m.

5:30 PM: Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if solar panel installation is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act or Northampton Wetlands Ordinance. Bruce & Rita Bleiman, 16 Hampton Terr, Map ID 39A-067.

Nelson Shifflett, Valley Home Improvement and Bruce Bleiman represented the project. Nelson stated that a city sewer easement runs across near where work will take place. Excavation will be done with a small excavator; concrete will be mixed by hand. Nelson stated the work will take one to two weeks to complete. Nelson stated that he is limited as to where they can install the array due to the slope and shade. Nelson stated that a building permit has been submitted and trench permit will be submitted. The small trench from the array to the house will be done by hand. Nelson will restore the slope and

discussed the materials he'll be using. Wattle or straw bales and silt fence will be placed for erosion control. Following a brief discussion, upon motion by Tim and second by Jason 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 a Negative Determination of Applicability by Checking Box 3 with standard conditions. Additional conditions include: post installation limited to the hillside and verified by staff at preconstruction visit. Erosion control to be installed downgradient of the excavation locations as described and equipment shall not be utilized outside the existing access roadway.

5:45 PM: Notice of Intent for rerouting of a walking trail, including a new stream crossing Work to take place in bordering vegetated wetland and riverfront area (Mill River). MassAudubon, parcel ID 45-10, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary.

Jonah Keane, Director, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary represented the project. Jonah reviewed the proposal to reroute a trail to discontinue disturbance in a sensitive area. Plans are to build a 25' bridge across an intermittent stream. Jonah noted that there are mostly wetlands at the existing trail so they won't need many plants to reroute the trail. It's in priority habitat and they have a plan with Natural Heritage. There are not a lot of invasive species there. Jonah stated that he is doing a detailed plant survey due to the rare plants located there.

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 Mason the Commission voted all in favor to issue an Order of Conditions with standard conditions. The Commission also required that the closed section of trail be re-evaluated in 2017.

Other Items:

Review and approve Agricultural License for Meadows Conservation Area, Montview Section.

Sarah drafted a license for farming for the period of three years. The farmer has been previously approved. Sarah reviewed the license with additional comments from the Commission. Upon motion by Mason and second by Tim the Commission voted all in favor to approve the license. Kevin discussed use of equipment not to be stored after the growing season which wording is included in the license.

Update on Open Space Acquisition Projects and CPA Applications.

Sarah stated that CPA applications for acquisition projects are moving forward. These include a connector between the Beaver Brook/Broad Brook Greenway and Coles Meadow Road, a parcel between Glendale Rd. & Rte. 66 that had previously been approved as a private subdivision, and an addition to Brookwood Marsh. The Brookwood project includes a limited development along Burts Pit Road that will provide some affordable lots, as well as some market rate lots. Sarah stated that an adjacent property owner of three-acre parcel 29-007 approached her for a possible wetlands permit for a single family home. The parcel includes a lot of BVW and turtle habitat, and would need a stream crossing for a driveway. Staff offered one of the .39 acre buildable lots carved off of the open space as a possible trade. Upon motion by Tim and second by Jason the Commission voted all in favor to move forward with this acquisition if the owner is interested.

Meeting Time.

The Commission agreed to keep the meeting time of the Conservation Commission at 5:30 p.m.

All other business not foreseen when agenda was published.

Mason discussed a possible violation on Crestview Drive. Sarah will look into it.

<i>Meeting Adjourned:</i>	<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i>Unanimous:</i>
<i>6:35 p.m.</i>	<i>Tim</i>	<i>Mason</i>	<i>All in favor</i>