

**Minutes**  
**Northampton Conservation Commission**  
**Remote Online Meeting**  
**March 26, 2020**

Members	Present	Time
Kevin Lake, Chair	x	
Mason Maronn	x	
Randy Krotowski	x	
Jack Finn	x	
Jason Perry	x	
Alec Bernstein	x	
Elizabeth Wroblicka	x	
Staff	Present	Time
Sarah LaValley	x	

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

**5:30 PM – Continuation: Notice of Intent for construction of a dock and wooden staircase. Work proposed within riverfront area, bank, and land subject to flooding (CT River). Tyson Holub & Alexis Neubert. 142 Riverbank Rd, Map ID 25-007.**

Doug Serrill and Jeff Squire, Berkshire Design Group, provided an update on revisions and additional materials submitted in response to discussion at the first hearing. The deck platform has been added to the NOI, resulting in 168 square feet increase to disturbance proposed. Six red osier dogwood plantings have been added along the top of bank, but no bank plantings are proposed due to the instability and slope of the bank. Stairs are proposed to be 2x12 pressure treated lumber, the micropiles originally proposed were determined to be infeasible and have been modified to driven pressure treated posts. Jason asked if these will be installed with hand tools or augers. Doug replied that this will be up to the contractor. Jack asked about an anchoring system for the dock. Doug replied that 30 pound mushroom anchors will be submerged. Kevin asked about seasonal removal of the dock. Alexis replied that it will not be dragged, but either carried or ferried across the river to the marina for removal.

Jason moved to close the hearing. Seconded by Mason, the motion carried unanimously. Jason moved to find that the work constitutes an overall improvement to the resource area, and issue an Order of Conditions, with standard conditions, and a requirement for assessment of the plantings, and replacement of any dead plantings, shall be required prior to issuance of a certificate of compliance. Seconded by Randy, the motion carried unanimously.

**5:45 PM: Notice of Intent for paving and roadway drainage improvements. Work to take place in bank, riverfront area, and bordering land subject to**

**flooding (Mill and Manhan Rivers). Northampton DPW, Meadow Street and Loudville Road ROWs**

Johanna Stacy, Kris Baker, and David Veleta, Northampton DPW, provided an overview of the project. Much of the work is either exempt or already covered under the DPW's bundled Order of Conditions. Nine parking spaces are proposed to be added within the right of way near Florence Fields. This will not result in a decrease in flood storage capacity. Kevin asked about any planned changes to granite curbing near the Mill River. David replied that the curbing and sidewalk was installed as part of the Florence Fields project. Anything in poor condition will be replaced. Sarah asked if maintenance will be required for the infiltration trench. David replied that it will be constructed of peastone, and will need to be mown regularly after a few years.

Johanna stated that the Loudville Road project is adjacent to the Manhan River; no flood storage capacity decrease will occur. Sarah asked about erosion along an existing headwall, and whether. Johanna replied that much of the area is not within the right of way so options are limited.

Jason moved to close the hearing. Seconded by Mason, the motion carried unanimously.

The Commission agreed that staff can add NHESP conditions, if any, to the Order and issue when that agency responds. Jason moved to issue an Order of Conditions, including standard conditions. Seconded by Randy, the motion carried unanimously.

**6:00 PM: Notice of Intent for replacement of an existing stormwater pipe, abandonment of an existing point-source stormwater discharge to Broad Brook, creation of a new stormwater discharge, and pedestrian path culvert replacement. Northampton DPW, North Farms Road ROW and map IDs 07-035 and 07-042.**

Elizabeth recused herself from discussion on this item.

Johanna Stacy provided an overview of the project; repaving and related work from Maple Street to the Williamsburg town line. A pipe replacement is proposed on private property where stormwater is directed to a wetland; the pipe is undersized and has failed, creating a scour pool. Bob Vollinger, property owner, stated that the City does not have an easement for the current pipe or proposed construction, and expressed concern about maintenance and possible future loss of property and agricultural use, stating that he would prefer a longer pipe to direct flow farther into the wetland. James Golec, abutter, expressed concern about agricultural field viability going forward and possible increased wet areas.

Johanna stated that the pipe outlet is being proposed to be installed at the edge of the wetland and cannot be extended further.

David Veleta stated that construction timing has been shifted to the fall so as not to impact agricultural use and that DPW is working with the landowner on an easement. It is DPW's preference to execute the easement once construction is complete and the final layout is known. The rip rap discharge areas will need to be maintained in the future; DPW is currently not able to do this since there is no easement in place.

Sarah stated that there may be agricultural exemptions available as part of the farm use of the property that DPW cannot claim; the pipe outlet is being extended into the resource areas as far as can be permitted.

The Commission discussed possible alternatives to the pipe location, noting that these would not be allowable as discharges of fill into a Waters of the United States.

Johanna provided a summary of the second part of the project; relocation of an existing direct piped discharge to Broad Brook to a wetland area north of the Fitzgerald Lake pathway. Replacement of a culvert under the path with a larger more wildlife friendly structure to accommodate any possible increase in flow without damaging the path is also proposed.

Mason moved to close the hearing. Seconded by Randy, the motion carried unanimously.

Jason moved to issue an order of conditions, with standard conditions. Seconded by Mason, the motion carried unanimously.

**All other business not foreseen when agenda was published**

Sarah stated that several dog law information signs were provided to Broad Brook Coalition to display at entrances to the Broad Brook Greenway.

**Authorize agent to sign issued permits on behalf of the Commission during State of Emergency**

Elizabeth moved to allow staff to sign permits. Seconded by Mason, the motion carried unanimously.

As there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM