

Minutes
Northampton Conservation Commission
2nd Floor Hearing Room, City Hall, Northampton, Mass.
March 12, 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		
Staff	Present	Time
Sarah LaValley	x	

Meeting Opened At:

By:

5:31 p.m.

Kevin

Minutes Approved:

Motion By:

Second By:

Unanimous:

November 14, 2019

Jack

Randy

yes

Public Comment

none

5:30 PM – 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, Berkshire Design Group, presented an overview of the project. The area is within priority and estimated habitat of rare and endangered species, and a ‘no-take’ determination with no additional conditions has been issued by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. The entire property is also within riverfront, and work is proposed within bank resource. The dock is proposed to be anchored and seasonal. The Commission discussed the floodplain elevation in this area, which is approximately 125 feet but is not shown on project plans. Doug stated that the seasonal high water is 112 feet, and this elevation was required to be shown on plans for riverfront area and Chapter 91 waterways license purposes, but that the floodplain can be added on a revised planset. The Commission discussed proposed micropile footings. Mason asked if an additional pile in the center of the staircase might be necessary due to its length. Doug replied that it may be, but will be determined at a later design phase. The dock is proposed to be removed and installed via the boat ramp in Hadley across the river. Mason asked about any proposed land under water disturbance. Doug stated that the dock will be anchored with submerged concrete blocks, not permanent anchors. No tree removal is proposed.

Sarah asked about a deck that was constructed on the rear of the house without Conservation Commission review. The Commission agreed that this should be added to project plans and narrative for consideration, since it has created alterations within riverfront, land subject to flooding, and buffer zone to bank. The Commission will need to be able to determine that all work represents an improvement over existing conditions. Doug stated that seeding of the bank would likely result in additional disturbance, but targeted larger plantings could be an

option. Sarah suggested shrub and understory plants, which could provide both habitat and bank stabilization.

The Commission agreed that detailed construction methodology, a revised plan showing all disturbance associated with the work, and more details about anchoring the stairs will be needed. The deck will need to be shown as if it were not already constructed, since a permit was not issued for that work.

Randy moved to continue to hearing until March 26 at 5:30 PM. Seconded by Alec, the motion carried unanimously.

5:30 PM – Continuation: Notice of Intent under the Northampton Wetlands Ordinance for construction of a new 3-story apartment building and related site and utility work within wetland resource areas and buffer zones. Dewey Court Properties LLC, 34 Dewey Court, Map ID 31D-217

Mason moved to continue the hearing until April 23 at 6:00 PM. Seconded by Jason, the motion carried unanimously.

6:00 PM – Continuation: Notice of Intent for bridge replacement – I91 over US Route 5 and B&M Railroad, and widening of Mount Tom Road/US 5. Work proposed within bordering vegetated wetland and bordering land subject to flooding (CT River). MassDOT, roadway rights of way.

Alec moved to continue the hearing until April 23 at 5:30 PM. Seconded by Randy, 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.

As there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:19 PM