

Minutes
Northampton Conservation Commission
Remote Online Meeting
April 23, 2020

Members	Present	Time
Kevin Lake, Chair	x	
Mason Maronn	x	
Randy Krotowski	x	
Jack Finn	x	5:50 PM
Jason Perry		
Alec Bernstein	x	
Elizabeth Wroblicka	x	
Staff	Present	Time
Sarah LaValley	x	

<i>Meeting Opened At:</i>	<i>By:</i>
5:31 p.m.	Kevin

<i>Minutes Approved:</i>	<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i>Unanimous:</i>
None			

Public Comment

none

5:30 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.

Paul Krug, MassDOT, provided an overview of the project. A new stormwater design will provide an improvement over existing conditions. Steve Cronkite, Parsons, outlined changes made to plans since the first submittal. Wetland impacts are the same, and will be mitigated by creation of a new wetland area. Flood storage impacts have increased due to base mapping changes. A bioretention area is proposed in the existing off-ramp cloverleaf. Soil testing informed details of the bioretention design, and many mature trees will be able to be retained. Flood storage won't be able to be provided at exactly a foot for foot basis due to challenges at higher elevations, but an overall increase in flood storage volume will be created. In the area of temporary wetland disturbance, a wetland seed mix and shrubs will be planted. Other environmental permitting included rare species, which is complete with a no-take letter, MEPA, which is underway, and an Army Corps of Engineers self-verification. A 100% design submittal is expected in May, with an anticipated fall construction. Benefits of the project include wetland improvement, trash and debris removal, and increased stormwater treatment.

Elizabeth moved to close the hearing. Seconded by Randy, the motion carried unanimously. Randy moved to issue an Order of Conditions, with standard conditions, additional conditions requiring annual reports for the wetland replication area, requirement for 75% res-establishment with native wetland plants, and prohibition on

further disturbance in mitigation areas, as recommended in the staff report, and inclusion of all specific conditions from the Water Quality Certificate. Seconded by Alec, the motion carried unanimously, with one abstention.

5:30 PM – Continuation: Notice of Intent for parking lot expansion and related stormwater work within buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetland. 26 Carlon Drive, Northampton Fire Department, Map ID 24B-086 Applicant: Northampton Central Services

Mary Zawatski and Alex Fagnand, Tighe and Bond, provided an overview of the project; a parking lot expansion into the buffer zone. Since the first public hearing, changes have been made to the plans, including two trees proposed for the Carlon Drive right-of-way, a shift of the battery backup to the rear of the building to accommodate a Planning Board condition, and a clarification that the disturbed area will be seeded, with no plantings proposed for the basin. Soil logs have been provided to show that there are no wetland indicators in the top 12” of soil. Peak storms were recalculated using correct modeling. Seasonal high groundwater is presumed to be at the wetland elevation. A filter is included to prevent sediment from entering the King Street drainage system during construction, with a treatment unit as a permanent measure. It is not known whether the fire department currently treats the parking area with sand. The Commission agreed that increased stormwater treatment should represent an overall improvement in existing conditions, and that opportunities for plantings or other mitigation are already limited by the site. Mason moved to close the hearing. Seconded by Randy, the motion carried unanimously. Mason moved to issue an Order of Conditions with standard conditions. Seconded by Alec, the motion carried unanimously.

6:00PM – Continuation: Notice of Intent under the Northampton Wetlands Ordinance for construction of a new 3-story apartment building and related siteand utility work within wetland resource areas and buffer zones. Dewey Court Properties LLC, 34 Dewey Court, Map ID 31D-217

Jeff Squire, Berkshire Design Group, provided an overview of the project. A City sanitary sewer running through the parcel will be repaired during the work, and a shed within the Protected Zone will be dismantled by hand via access from Dewey Court. Understory vegetation will be created in this area. Randy moved to close the hearing. Seconded by Elizabeth, the motion carried unanimously. Randy moved to issue an Order of Conditions with standard conditions, and a requirement that the pedestrian crossing be elevated on piers at least 12” above the wetland surface. Seconded by Elizabeth, the motion carried unanimously.

All other business not foreseen when agenda was published

Kevin recapped a site visit that he, Elizabeth and Sarah made to the Vollinger property on North Farms Road. A future application for work to address drainage along field edges may be submitted.

As there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM