

Minutes
Northampton Conservation Commission
2nd Floor Hearing Room, City Hall, Northampton, Mass.
February 27, 2020

Members	Present	Time
Kevin Lake, Chair	x	
Mason Maronn		
Randy Krotowski	x	
Jack Finn	x	
Jason Perry	x	
Alec Bernstein		
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 – Notice of Intent for construction of a 4-story office building, parking lot, utility and stormwater management. Work proposed within bordering land subject to flooding (CT River) and buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetland. Northwood Development. 15 Atwood Drive, Map ID 39-043.

Jason recused himself from discussion for this item.
Brian Huntley, Tighe and Bond, presented an overview of the project’s permit history. The most recent was an amendment in 2017 when the design changed to remove the front restaurant building and shift from a hotel to offices. That Order has expired, and a second planned building and completion of stormwater infrastructure has yet to be completed. Existing conditions plans in the current application now reflect the first office building; the courthouse, already constructed.

Randy asked if current soil structure of the infiltration basins has been evaluated. Brian stated that it has not.

Sarah asked how issues, including standing water indicating that the basins do not infiltrate, will be addressed, as a plan is not included in the application. Brian stated that basin soils will be investigated, and a course of action then determined.

Sarah asked about differences in the planting plan from the original submittal. Brian replied that the new plan incorporates plantings already installed as part of the first phase, and that no reduction is proposed. Existing vegetation in bioretention areas will need to be removed and replaced.

Elizabeth moved to close the hearing. Seconded by Jack, the motion carried unanimously.
Randy moved to issue an Order of Conditions, with standard conditions and additional conditions:

After one year from the date of the Order, an assessment of the northerly wetland to ensure it is receiving parking lot drainage sufficient so as not to have become dewatered

Retention of a project engineer to oversee construction, with weekly reports submitted to the Commission during construction

Engineered soil mixes utilized as part of the stormwater system must be tested by an independent lab to confirm required components, results provided to DPW and Commission

If raingarden surface material is proposed to be retained and not excavated, a sample from raingarden must be tested by an independent lab to confirm required components, results provided to DPW and Commission. If not found to meet DEP requirements, it must be excavated and the material replaced.

After one year from the date of the Order, an analysis of the functionality of the raingardens and infiltration basins, stamped by a professional engineer of record in the commonwealth of Massachusetts, must be submitted to the DPW and the Commission.

Seconded by Jack, the motion carried unanimously.

Request for Certificate of Compliance, DEP File 246-546, 320 Riverside Drive

Randy moved to issue a certificate of compliance. Seconded by Jason, the motion carried unanimously.

Request for Certificate of Compliance, DEP File 246-220, 209 Locust Street

Elizabeth moved to issue a certificate of compliance. Seconded by Randy, the motion carried unanimously.

Review of Staff-Issued Permits

Sarah stated that an Emergency Certification was issued at DPW's request to breach a beaver dam on Turkey Hill Road to prevent flooding during rain and icing events. Sarah will conduct the breaching by hand and will keep water levels high to protect overwintering amphibians and reptiles.

Pine Grove/Rocky Hill Greenway Conservation Restriction

The Commission voted unanimously to grant the restriction to the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and signed the restriction.

All other business not foreseen when agenda was published

Kevin stated that he met with Broad Brook Coalition regarding concerns with off-leash dogs and dog waste, a follow-up meeting in the spring can be planned. Sarah will obtain additional signage for Broad Brook Greenway entrances.

As there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:16 PM