

Minutes
Northampton Conservation Commission
2nd Floor Hearing Room, City Hall, Northampton, Mass.
April 12, 2018

| Members | Present | Time |
|---------------------|---------|------|
| Kevin Lake, Chair | x | |
| Mason Maronn | x | |
| Lisa Fusco | x | |
| Jack Finn | x | |
| Jason Perry | x | |
| Jessica Pica | x | |
| Elizabeth Wroblicka | | |
| Staff | Present | Time |
| Sarah LaValley | 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> |
| October 26, 2017 | Jason | Jack | yes |

Public Comment

Celia Lang, 80 Barrett Street, stated that someone is constructing a bike jump within the Barrett Street Marsh and asked what to do. Sarah provided staff contact information and asked her to follow-up with details.

5:30 PM Notice of Intent for interchange improvements at Interstate 91 and Exit 19. Work includes impacts to riverfront area and bordering land subject to flooding (Connecticut River). MassDOT.

Robert Natario, MassDOT District 2 provided an overview of the project history; impacts have been reduced since it was first proposed 15 years ago. The project has gone through MEPA review and many public hearings.

TranSystems engineers stated that a two-lane roundabout will be added in place of the existing intersection, as well as a shared use path and a second left-turn lane to 91 southbound from Route 9. Floodplain storage will be created within the highway layout. Riverfront area disturbance is limited to the existing already-disturbed area at the Coolidge Bridge. Currently, untreated flow discharges directly to the river, the project will create some treatment, and will increase the pipe size leading to the river. The outlet will not be affected. Invasive species along the highway will be removed. The project will likely take two construction seasons. The center of the roundabout will be planted, and the truck apron and pavement will be banked to direct flow to catchbasins.

Sarah asked how the project will handle increased rain events in the future. Mike Rieger stated that the two and 10-year storm events in the Cornwll model are similar to the TP 40 in this location.

Robert stated that an invasive plant strategy will be implemented during construction, but no herbicide use is planned.

Sarah asked about possibilities for porous pavement anywhere in the project. Mike stated that MassDOT standards do not allow for it, and that soils would also limit usage in this area.

All 3:1 slopes will need to be mown to maintain visibility.

Jessica moved to close the hearing, seconded by Jason, the motion carried unanimously.

Lisa moved to issue an Order of Conditions with standard conditions, and a requirement for provision of a stormwater operation and maintenance plan, and a copy of the invasive plant management strategy. Seconded by Mason, the motion carried unanimously.

6:00 PM Notice of Intent for culvert replacement, Chesterfield Road. Work includes impacts to bank, BVW and land under (unnamed tributary to Mill River). Northampton DPW.

Kris Baker, Department of Public Works, provided an overview of the project, which includes repaving of Chesterfield Road that is allowed through the bundled Order of Conditions, and replacement of a culvert. DPW staff met with DEP and Sarah regarding substantial compliance with the stream crossing standards, and DEP agreed that the in-kind replacement proposed provided enough compliance with the standards – size is limited by the depth of buried infrastructure, and full compliance would have only limited improvements. Some curbing will be added to create a gutter, and traprock gravel is proposed to limit existing erosion.

Jim Ryan, 75 Chesterfield Road expressed concern with water flow during storms. Greg Newman, DPW, stated that a crown will be added to the roadway to split drainage to both sides of the road, and older catchbasins will be replaced with newer versions with deep sumps – water degrades pavement so the project is designed to limit time that flow can remain on the roadway.

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

Mason moved to issue an Order of Conditions with standard conditions.

Seconded by Jack, the motion carried unanimously.

Review and Approve Proposed Tree Removal at Meadows Conservation Area – Montview Section

The Commission agreed that removal of a tree that is shading roofs and gardens on the adjacent farm property is allowable, as it is supported by the neighborhood association and CR holder. A replacement tree will be required.

Request for Certificate of Compliance – Yankee Hill Machine, 20 Ladd Avenue, DEP File 246-604

Lisa moved to issue a certificate. Seconded by Jack, the motion carried unanimously.

As there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM