

**Minutes**  
**Northampton Conservation Commission**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hearing Room, City Hall, Northampton, Mass.**  
**June 14, 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	x	
Staff	Present	Time
Sarah LaValley	x	

<i>Meeting Opened At:</i> 5:30 p.m.	<i>By:</i> Kevin
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<i>Minutes Approved:</i> December 14, 2017	<i>Motion By:</i> Mason	<i>Second By:</i> Jessica	<i>Unanimous:</i> yes
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**Public Comment**

None

**5:30 PM Request to Amend Order of Conditions for dock and boardwalk improvements at Fitzgerald Lake to include boat access platform. Broad Brook Coalition, North Farms Road, Map ID 7-35. DEP File 246-691**

Bob Zimmerman, Broad Brook Coalition, provided background on the previously permitted project to rehabilitate the Fitzgerald lake dock and boardwalk. Visitors are finding it difficult to access canoes or kayaks from the height of the dock, and an extension is proposed on driven posts. These are proposed to be 4'x4' pine, and will not be treated. Kevin asked if a floating extension was considered. Bob replied that it would need to be removed in the winter, and is in a difficult location. Jack asked about variations in the Lake's water level. Bob replied that the outlet had been obstructed by beavers, but addition of rock around the exclusion fence has prevented beavers from damming the pipe and the level has been constant, with no concerns about flooding. Mason moved to issue an amended Order of Conditions to include the dock extension as proposed, with an additional condition that it not be pressure treated. Seconded by Jason, the motion carried unanimously.

On a motion by Kevin and second by Jason, the Commission reviewed and unanimously approved a request from the Smith College botanic garden for seed collection at conservation areas.

**5:45 PM Request to Amend Order of Conditions for crew house work to include new sidewalk addition. Trustees of Smith College, College Lane, Map ID 31D-10. DEP File 246-699**

Jeff Squire, Berkshire Design Group, stated that a proposed accessible route to the boathouse dock will connect to the newly installed pathways at the top of the slope. Gary Hartwell, Smith Facilities, added that the crew house is not currently used for boating, and this will provide accessibility to the dock when the boathouse is closed. Additional herbaceous plantings could be added to the planting plan if required. The Commission agreed that the plantings installed already exceeded those that were required. Jack asked about invasive plants. Jeff replied that invasives were present on the slope leading to the roadway, and that the planting plan was expanded to try and combat them. The slope was cleared of existing vegetation. The Commission asked about turtles, and Gary replied that they often lay eggs in the sandy soil adjacent to the roadway. Mason moved to issue an amended order to include the additional walkway, with no additional conditions. Seconded by Jason, the motion carried unanimously.

**6:00 PM Request for Determination to determine whether resource area boundaries are delineated accurately. Turnberry Partners, 1010 Ryan Road, Map ID 35-29**

Jeff Squire provided an overview of the site; the western portion of the former Willard gravel pit. Resource areas include BVW, riverfront area and bank. A wash basin on the western portion of the property was not flagged, and the RDA asks for confirmation that this is not jurisdictional as part of the active gravel operation. Sarah noted that some areas that were not flagged are wooded, and contain wetland areas that were not part of the operations. The Commission agreed that the applicants consultant should visit the site and focus on this area. Lisa moved to continue the hearing to June 28. Seconded by Jack, the motion carried unanimously.

**6:10 PM Notice of Intent for management activities in and along the Mill River, Paradise Pond and Lyman Pond. Smith College. Map ID 31C-15**

Jason moved to continue the hearing to June 28 at 5:45 PM. Seconded by Jessica, the motion carried unanimously.

**Endorsement of 2018-2025 Open Space Recreation and Multi-Use Trail Plan**

Wayne Feiden, Director of Planning and Sustainability provided a summary of the plan. Much is repeated from the prior plan, with additions to the inventory and updated goals, as well as new inclusions resulting from the public comment process. Big gains have been made since the previous plan in conservation and recreation areas, with smaller increases in park space and agriculture. Action items include continuing to preserve open space, creating new lots where it makes sense, farmland preservation and support, increased management and upkeep of conservation areas, and consideration of different types of recreation where appropriate.

Elizabeth asked about management of watershed lands. Wayne noted that much of the watershed is outside the City, but that the Commission could consider selective cutting of open space lands. Elizabeth asked if climate change resiliency is included in the plan. Wayne replied that those factors are included in prioritization. Kevin noted that the Plan does not take a position on hunting, but recommends that the Commission consider possible new areas.

Bill Golaski suggested that the plan should have more recommendations regarding hunting. Jane Potter, MCCC noted that meetings regarding hunting are polarizing, and that much of the concern is regarding firearms. The discussion could be expanded to include different types of user groups accessing areas.

Mason moved to endorse the plan. Seconded by Lisa, the motion carried unanimously.

**Request to Extend Order of Conditions – 246-0686 for maintenance work throughout the City, Northampton DPW**

Jason moved to extend the Order as requested. Seconded by Elizabeth, the motion carried unanimously.

As there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM