Minutes
Northampton Conservation Commission
2nd Floor Hearing Room, City Hall, Northampton, Mass.
January 10, 2019

Members Present Time
Kevin Lake, Chair x
Mason Maronn
Randy Krotowski x
Jack Finn x
Jason Perry x
Jessica Pica x
Elizabeth Wroblewski x

Staff Present Time
Sarah LaValley x

Meeting Opened At: By:
5:30 p.m. Kevin

Minutes Approved: Motion By: Second By: Unanimous:
July 26, 2019 Jason Jessica yes

Public Comment
None

5:30 PM, Continuation - Notice of Intent for proposed Paradise Pond Sediment Management Program for sediment redistribution and mobilization. Work to include alteration to within land under waterbodies – Paradise Pond and Mill River. Smith College, applicant
Randy moved to continue the hearing until March 14, 2019 at 5:30 PM. Seconded by Elizabeth, the motion carried unanimously.

5:35 PM Notice of Intent for culvert replacement. Work includes impacts to bank, bordering vegetated wetland, land under water (unnamed intermittent tributary to Bassett Brook). Northampton DPW, Park Hill Road right of way.
Kris Baker, Northampton Department of Public Works, stated that this project is a coldwater fisheries restoration that will bring the culvert to compliance with the state’s stream crossing standards. The project is being funded by Eversource as part of mitigation for violations elsewhere. Kevin noted that there is an extensive flooded area upstream and asked if that will change. Kris replied that the size limitation of the existing culvert could be causing a backup, but the increased size should alleviate problems. It will be embedded four feet, and will be a full open bottom culvert above grade. Construction is expected to take 10-14 days, with a 7/8 minute detour since the road will not be passable.
Public Comment – Neighbors expressed concern about the delay of the detour and late notice before the start of the project. Kevin noted that Conservation Commission jurisdiction extends only to wetlands-related issues, and suggested sharing other concerns with the City Councilor. A neighbor asked why the culvert was not replaced when the road was redone. Kris replied that funding for the culvert was not available at that time.
Jason moved to issue an Order of Conditions with standard conditions. Seconded by Jessica, the motion carried unanimously.
5:45 PM Notice of Intent for proposed construction of a single family home within buffer zone to vegetated wetland. Charles Amo. 994 Florence Rd, Map ID 44-133.

Ward Smith provided a background on the application. An Order of Conditions issued several years ago for construction of the common driveway that serves this lot and adjacent parcels included a wetlands delineation in 2006, but that has expired and the wetland has enlarged.

Sarah noted that the amount of disturbance on the parcel already exceeds twenty percent of the buffer zone, and the Ordinance does not allow for flexibility to expand beyond that. The Commission discussed new disturbance proposed in the application, and the possibility of shifting the house location.

The applicant requested a continuance to investigate alternatives.

Jack moved to continue the hearing to February 14 at 5:30. Seconded by Elizabeth, the motion carried unanimously.

Request for Certificate of Compliance, Paradise Pond Management Plan, Smith College, DEP File 246-580

Rosalie Starvish, GZA, stated that the Management Plan permit was replaced with an updated Order in the fall. The prior Order required a fish ladder study. A fell study was not completed, but the ecological benefits of a ladder would be limited due to the South Street drop structure and other dams on the Mill River upstream. Elizabeth noted that trout would likely benefit most from a ladder. The Commission agreed that a study is not critical at this point given the lack of an overall plan for fish passage on this section of the Mill River.

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

As there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.