

Minutes
Northampton Conservation Commission
Remote Online Meeting
February 25, 2021

Members	Present	Time
Kevin Lake, Chair	x	
Mason Maronn	x	
Randy Krotowski	x	
Jack Finn	x	
Jason Perry	x	
Alec Bernstein	x	
Jen Smith		
Staff	Present	Time
Sarah LaValley	x	

<i>Meeting Opened At:</i>	<i>By:</i>
5:32 p.m.	Kevin

<i>Minutes Approved:</i>	<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i>Unanimous:</i>
October 8, 2020	Randy	Mason	Yes, 1 abstention, by roll call vote

Public Comment

None

5:30 PM – Notice of Intent for shed and barn construction within bordering land subject to flooding (CT River). Joe Jasinski, 43 Fair St, Map ID 32A-248
 Jeff Squire, Berkshire Design Group, presented an overview of the project. A shed will be relocated, and a pole barn constructed in that location. Fill equaling the 1598 cubic feet of flood storage area occupied by the barn will be removed from the 117-118 foot elevation, the only elevation available onsite. Mason asked if another location in the Meadows was considered for flood storage provision. Jeff replied that the possible locations are limited due to other wetlands constraints on other sites in the Meadows, and the elevations needed. Sarah noted that the work does not qualify for an agricultural exemption. Jeff clarified that the frost posts will be buried below ground level and will not require compensation. Ground level is at 118 feet, so excess flood storage will be created at the lower elevations. Flow through vents will be included, and the work will not require a flood elevation certificate under building code.
 The Commission discussed conditions to include regular maintenance of the grades surrounding the barn to ensure functionality of flow-through vents, an as-built stamped survey plan with documentation of fill removed, and a permanent ongoing condition indicating that placement of fill in the parcel requires conservation commission review and approval.
 Alec moved to close the hearing. Seconded by Randy, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. The Order will note the change in compensatory storage due to work below ground level discussed.
 Jason moved to issue an Order of Conditions with the conditions discussed. Seconded by Alec, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Review and Approve Mill River Greenway Acquisition, Parcel 05-072

Sarah provided an overview of the acquisition. The parcel is located between the bike path and Mill River in Leeds, north of the Chartpak dam. An 'owner unknown' parcel with a full title search underway, acquisition will allow conservation area rules to be applied. CPA funds will cover the lower of assessed or appraised value. A conservation restriction will be held by the Leeds Civic Association. Councilor Rachel Maiore spoke in favor of the acquisition and partnership with LCA.

Mason moved to approve the acquisition and CR. Seconded by Jack, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Glendale Road Parking Option

Sarah provided an overview - the City owns a surplus property on Glendale Road that was retained for future development as part of a planned limited development project, and the parcel is now being sold. It is adjacent to the West Farms conservation area, and includes a retained right for a parking lot. The City is unlikely to ever pursue a conservation parking lot on this property, and a vote from the Commission to make clear that the parking lot rights are relinquished on any portion of the lot that the buyer plans to use for their own driveway access will clarify title and allow the property to be sold. Randy moved to relinquish the parking lot right. Seconded by Alec, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Other Business

Kevin noted that the amount of work highlighted in Broad Brook Coalition's annual report is impressive.

As there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM