Minutes
Northampton Conservation Commission
2nd Floor Hearing Room, City Hall, Northampton, Mass.
June 27, 2019

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

Staff Present Time
Sarah LaValley x

Meeting Opened At: By:
5:31 p.m. Kevin

Minutes Approved: Motion By: Second By: Unanimous:
November 8, 2018 Jessica Jack yes

Public Comment
None

5:30 PM – Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if installation of a perimeter drain and drywell within riverfront area (Mill River) is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act or Northampton Wetlands Ordinance. Jeff Marney/660 Riverside Drive LLC. 660 Riverside Drive, Map ID 23C-037
Randy moved to continue the hearing until 6:15, as the applicant was not present. Seconded by Jessica, the motion carried unanimously.

Request for Certificate of Compliance, Smith College, Artificial Turf Field, DEP File 246-639
Rosalie Starvish, GZA, provided an overview of the project. A parking area included on the permitted plans will not be constructed. Documentation of native species and monitoring of invasive control areas was provided. Jessica moved to issue a certificate of compliance, with ongoing conditions. Seconded by Randy, the motion carried unanimously.

5:45 PM – Notice of Intent slope repair and stabilization, stormwater drainage improvements, addition of a deep catchbasin and outlet repair within riverfront area (Mill River) and buffer zone to bank. Cutlery Building Condominium Trust. 320 Riverside Drive, Map ID 30A-032.
Tony Woneski, SVA Associates, provided an overview of the site and the project. The parking lot has been graded to flow over the bank, which has caused erosion over the years which the work is proposed to address. Resources include bank, riverfront and land subject to flooding. Some pavement will be removed, and a deep sump catchbasin added. One large locust will need to be removed. Double barrier erosion control is proposed along the perimeter of work, drainage pipe will be installed and backfilled, and the area loamed and seeded. Knotweed will be removed from within the limit of work. A no-take determination
from NHESP was received. Kevin asked about river erosion. Tony noted that when river levels are down the existing pipe generally flows smoothly, and failure was caused by drainage, not river erosion.
Mason asked about the level lip spreader detail. Tony replied that it will be an 12” pipe, with rip rap proposed at the outlet. Kevin asked about sand and salt. Alan Verson, building owner, replied that the parking lot is treated with sand, and swept in the spring.
The Commission agreed that a condition requiring annual notification of sweeping and catchbasin cleaning should be included in the Order of Conditions. Additional conditions as recommended by staff to include:
At least once during each week in which construction activity occurs on site and for as long thereafter as ground remains unstabilized, the applicant shall submit a report to the Conservation Commission providing an update on progress and certifying that, to the best of his knowledge and belief based on a careful site inspection, all work is being performed in compliance with this Order of Conditions.
The area of construction shall remain in a stable condition at the close of each construction day. Erosion controls should be inspected at this time, and repaired, reinforced or replaced as necessary.
Two appropriate native replacement trees 2” dbh to shade the coldwater fishery resource shall be planted at the project site. A request for certificate of compliance shall include an assessment of the health of the trees. If dead or diseased, they shall be replaced.
Mason moved to close the hearing. Seconded by Jack, the motion carried unanimously.
Elizabeth moved to issue an Order of Conditions, with standard conditions and additional conditions discussed. Seconded by Mason, the motion carried unanimously.

6:05 PM – Notice of Intent, Ecological Restoration Project for invasive species control at Rainbow Beach Conservation Area. MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Rainbow Road, Map IDs 33-033, 33-027 & 33-030.
Elizabeth recused herself from discussion of this item.
Daniel Bove, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, provided an overview of the project, intended to remove knotweed, bittersweet and other invasives from the sensitive Rainbow Beach area. The floodplain forest receives seeds from upstream, including large numbers of mobilized invasive plants. Focus will be on areas with the largest infestations, and most critical endangered species occurrence areas, with smaller targets later. Phragmities should be able to be completed eliminated.
Kevin asked if public use of the area will be affected. Daniel replied that most access is from boats along the beach, and these will not be impacted.
Kevin asked if findings and methods could be summarized as a tool for similar projects. Daniel replied that methodology can be shared.
Randy asked about herbicide use in vernal pools. Daniel replied that it is necessary for phragmities treatment, but all are aquatic approved and will break down quickly.
Mason moved to close the hearing. Seconded by Randy, the motion carried unanimously.
Jessica moved to issue an Order of Conditions valid for five years, with requirements for annual reporting, and a larger report after five years. Seconded by Jack, the motion carried unanimously.

The Commission continued the 660 Riverside Drive RDA until 5:30 on July 25 as the applicant was not present.

As there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM