



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH
Conservation Commission
Tuesday, April 12, 2011
Conference Room B

Conservation
Commission
5-9-11

- Present:** Wayne Baldelli, Mo Tougas, Greg Young, Diane Guldner, and Tom Beals
- Absent:** Todd Helwig and Brian McManus
- Others Present:** Fred Litchfield – Town Engineer; Eileen Dawson – Recording Secretary; Robert Bennett – MassDOT; Kurt Jelinek – Nobis Engineering; Joe Johnson – Greenman-Pederson, Inc.; Craig Najarian – 60 Northgate Road; Bob Mihalek – Trails Committee; Kevin and Chris Thompson – 133 Howard Street; and Keith Stone – Pinnacle Landscape.

At 7:05 pm, Mr. Baldelli opened the Conservation Commission meeting.

• **Informal discussion with Mr. and Mrs. Sagarian regarding cutting some trees at 22 Washington Road**

Mr. Baldelli, Mr. Litchfield, and Mr. Sagarian discussed the tree removal proposed within the 15' no disturb area including: marking the trees to be cut, keeping shade for species in the area, cutting down the larger trees, and efforts to bring stability to the bank. Mr. Litchfield agreed to visit the site after the trees, to be removed, were marked.

• **Informal discussion with Trails Committee about addition of a loop trail to the Watson Park trail.**

Mr. Mihalek, Chairperson of the Trails Committee, discussed creating a loop about 350 yards long at the trail at Watson Park. He explained plans and the loop area including: raking leaves out of the area where the loop would be constructed, no vegetation to protect in the area, adding a prefabricated board walk about 28" high over the existing culvert, tethering to the area, painting markers on trees to mark trail, and minimal maintenance needed. Mr. Baldelli discussed the water flow from the culvert and had no concerns with the boardwalk disturbing the area. Mr. Mihalek explained that the trail steward assigned to this trail would ensure that debris and trash left on the trail would be removed.

Commissioners and Mr. Litchfield discussed that Mr. Litchfield would send a letter to Mr. Mihalek supporting the proposed loop and associated work on the trail at Watson Park.

• **Review Minutes of March 14, 2011 Meeting** –

Commissioners discussed the minutes and had the change to the minutes to reflect that a small corner of the property on 6 Church Street was within the 200' Riverfront area and would not be disturbed.

Ms. Guldner motioned, Mr. Young seconded, and it was unanimously voted, “To approve the March 14, 2011 minutes as amended.”

Public Hearings:

Mr. Tougas read the legal advertisement for the following Public Hearings:

Notice of Intent filed by MassDOT for Route 20 and Church Street reconstruction within the 200’ Riverfront area.

Notice of Intent filed by Craig Najarian of 60 Northgate Road for the construction of a retaining wall with associated grading within the 100’ buffer zone.

Notice of Intent filed by Kevin Thompson of 133 Howard Street for the expansion of an existing garage within the 100’ buffer zone.

7:20 PM Notice of Intent, Route 20/Church Street Intersection, DEP # 247-1004

Reconstruction of Route 20 and Church Street

Applicant: Susan McArthur, MassDOT

Representative: Kurt Jelinek, P.E.

Joe Johnson, representative from Greenman-Pederson, explained the details of the new traffic improvements affecting Church Street, Main Street, Hudson Street, Patty Lane, and Smith Street. Mr. Johnson explained the plans for sidewalk improvements, and the need to protect Cold Harbor Brook in the 200’ Riverfront area due to some proposed roadwork.

Kurt Jelinek, representative from Nobis Engineering, explained the upgrade of catch basins proposed (deep sub catch basins, some with hoods), increase in impervious area, and increased run off (minimal). Mr. Litchfield explained that the applicant would clean out the drainage pipes on Route 20, install and inspect silt sacks, and maintain the catch basins in the 200’ Riverfront area on Church Street. Commissioners discussed straw wattles and silt fence to be used to protect the brook. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Litchfield discussed that work would begin mid-summer, heavy construction next year, bids for work needed would begin this year, temporary easements would be needed for some property owners, and Mass Highway would be funding the \$4.5 million project through state and federal funds.

Mr. Baldelli requested audience sharing; no one responded.

Ms. Guldner motioned, Mr. Tougas seconded, and it was unanimously voted, “To issue an Order of Conditions to MassDOT for the Route 20/Church Street reconstruction project, DEP # 247-1004 with the erosion control of silt sacks in drainage pipes, straw wattles and slit fencing installed to protect the brook, and drainage pipes cleaned out.”

7:45 pm Notice of Intent, 60 Northgate Road, DEP # 247- 1006

Construction of retaining wall and associated grading within the 100’ buffer zone.

Applicant: Craig Najarian

Mr. Najarian gave the signature cards and abutter list to Mr. Litchfield. Mr. Najarian explained the plans to build a small retaining wall (2’ high with native stones) and grade a flat section of his yard to put a swing set up for his children. Commissioners requested silt fencing be added 15-17’ from the 30’ no structure area to wetlands. Commissioners requested that Mr. Najarian feather out earth at the base of the silt fencing as to protect the wetlands when the fencing is removed (prevents silt from running into wetlands). Mr. Najarian plans to start the project at the end of April or beginning of May.

Mr. Baldelli asked for audience sharing; no one responded.

Mr. Young motioned, Mr. Beals seconded, and it was unanimously voted, "To issue an Order of Conditions to Mr. Najarian for property at 60 Northgate Road, DEP # 247-1005."

7:50 pm Notice of Intent, 133 Howard Street, DEP # 247- 1005

Expansion of existing house with associated grading within the 100' buffer zone.

Applicant: Kevin Thompson

Representative: Steve Sears, David E. Ross Associates, Inc.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson explained the plans for their property to include a 9' bump out of the existing garage, which is within the 100' buffer zone. Commissioners discussed the straw wattles and silt fencing location, swale added to protect the wetlands, no trucks allowed in back, straw wattles across the driveway, stock piling to be in the front yard in front of the silt fencing, and keeping driveway clear of silt to avoid silt going across the driveway into the wetlands. Mr. Litchfield advised Mr. Thompson to call Mr. Litchfield to set up an inspection after the erosion control measures were in place.

No audience members were present for comment.

Mr. Tougas motioned, Mr. Beals seconded, and it was unanimously voted, "To issue an Order of Conditions to Mr. Thompson for property at 333 Howard Street for the expansion of the existing house and associated grading, DEP # 247-1006 with the special conditions that straw wattles would be used on driveway, stock piling in the front of property, and keeping driveway clear of silt material."

New Business:

- The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 9, 2011. Commissioners discussed and had no issues.
- Congratulations to Greg Young for completing MACC's Fundamentals for Conservation Commissioners – Mr. Baldelli read Mr. Young's letter of accomplishment.
- Vote to provide \$70,000 to MDAR for APR purchase on Ball Street – Mr. Litchfield explained the financial details related to the state paying \$430K and asking the town to pay \$70K for the property on Ball Street to establish an APR. Mr. Litchfield explained that the property was assessed at over \$1 million and the \$70K request (would be from the Conservation Funds) would need to be approved by the Commissioners. Commissioners discussed. Mr. Baldelli requested action. (Moe Tougas recused himself from the entire discussion and vote).

Mr. Beals motioned, Mr. Young seconded, and it was voted 4, 0, 1 (Mr. Tougas recused himself), "To approve the \$70K be used to secure APR from the New England Forestry Foundation on Ball Street."

- Reminder Annual Town Meeting starts Monday, April 25, 2011 – Mr. Litchfield reminded all of the upcoming Town Meeting.
- Reminder Annual Town Cleanup Day is Saturday May 7, 2011. Mr. Litchfield reminded all of the events to take place on May 7th including: Take It or Leave It (Recycling event), Big Truck Day, and the Town wide garage sale sponsored by the Recreation Department.

Old Business:

- 15 Thayer Street - Pond work needed as a result of the sewer break. Mr. Litchfield gave a brief update on the raking of properties.
- 24 Davis Street - work along the edge of a detention basin to remove scrub brush. Mr. Litchfield gave an update on minor brush cutting needed near the detention basin near 24 Davis Street.
- Discuss Bartlett Pond Herbicide Treatment RFP – Mr. Litchfield explained the request in the Operating Budget for the \$30k needed for pond treatment, the Town Administrator’s concerns with the budget, and the issue with the \$30K being too small an amount to put into capital improvements. Mr. Litchfield commented that he would advertise in the newspaper on Friday for bids on the RFP and his need to have Commissioners assist with reviewing proposals (if more than one submittal is brought forth).
- Northborough Crossing – Mr. Litchfield explained Borggaard Construction’s request to put in the Pylon Sign earlier than requested. Mr. Litchfield asked the Commissioners to put Northborough Crossing on the site visit list for next month. Commissioners requested that the applicant mark up a box where the footings would go before the site visit next month. Mr. Litchfield agreed to ask Borggaard to put up silt fencing as well.

Certificates of Compliance: (none at this time)

Adjourn

Commissioners had no further business to discuss. Mr. Baldelli requested action.

Mr. Tougas motioned, Ms. Guldner seconded, and it was unanimously voted, “To adjourn the Conservation Commission meeting.”

The Conservation Commission meeting ended at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Dawson

Commission Secretary