



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Conservation Commission

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Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes August 10, 2015

Members Present: Greg Young, Diane Guldner, Maurice Tougas, and Todd Helwig

Others Present: Kale Kalloch-Getman, Conservation Agent; Fred Litchfield, Town Engineer; Jacquie Goring, Board Secretary; John Grenier, J.M. Grenier Associates, Inc.

Request for a Determination of Applicability, 720 Howard Street

- Applicant: Mr. Aaron Westley
- Representative: Mr. John Grenier, J.M. Grenier Associates, Inc.
- Request: Installation of a deck within the 100' Buffer Zone to a Vegetated Wetland
- Jurisdiction: No work is proposed within wetland resource areas

Mr. John Grenier, J.M. Grenier Associates, Inc., presented the project for the installation of a deck at 720 Howard Street. Mr. Grenier informed the Commission that an Order of Conditions was issued for construction of single family house and septic system and associated site work in May of 2012 at which time a deck was not proposed. The Order of Conditions expired in May 2015 and the applicant has requested a Certificate of Compliance for the Order. Grenier noted that the sonotubes for the deck will be hand dug and concrete will be mixed onsite by hand. The proposed deck will be 10 feet by 16 feet in dimension and will be located behind the house in an existing lawn area.

Ms. Kale Kalloch-Getman displayed site visit photos for the Request for Determination of Applicability and the Request for Certificate of Compliance. Mr. Grenier described the location of the property, house and the 30-foot buffer line. The proposed deck is located outside the 30-foot buffer. A sliding door currently exists on the second floor in the location of the proposed deck. Ms. Kalloch-Getman confirmed the location of the proposed deck and that the site has been properly stabilized following the construction completed under the 2012 Order of Conditions. Ms. Kalloch-Getman noted that the applicant has purchased wetland delineation no disturb signs to be posted along the 30-foot buffer line. Additionally, the applicant has recorded a deed reference as required by the 2012 Order of Conditions to ensure subsequent owners of the property are aware of the location of the wetland and the need to file with the Northborough Conservation Commission for any future work on the property.

The Commission confirmed with Mr. Grenier that the closest sonotubes will be set within 5 to 6 feet of the 30-foot buffer line. The Commission asked Mr. Grenier about the existing second story sliding door and if the deck was intended to be installed at the time of the 2012 Order of Conditions. Grenier explained that he did not see the sliding door proposed on the plans in 2012 and was not aware of the house layout at that time. The Commission discussed the proposed deck and location. Ms. Kalloch-Getman confirmed that the May 2012 Order of Conditions has expired, therefore an extension cannot be granted to complete the proposed deck. The Commission discussed issuing a Negative 3 Determination with conditions that sonotubes must be dug by hand and no machinery is used during construction of the proposed deck. The Commission recommended to Mr. Grenier that the applicant be sure to include all anticipated work when filing in the future.

Mr. Maurice Tougas motioned to approve and issue for a Negative #3 Determination of Applicability for 720 Howard Street for the installation of a deck. Ms. Diane Guldner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

720 Howard Street, 247-1030, Certificate of Compliance

Mr. Tougas motioned to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 720 Howard Street. Ms. Guldner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Lincoln Street School

Mr. Fred Litchfield, Town Engineer, was present to discuss changes to the Lincoln Street School grading. Mr. Litchfield displayed plans and reviewed the driveway and drainage layouts proposed under the Order of Conditions. The original plan included sloped curbing near the entrance from Lincoln Street which would direct water toward bio-retention Area #1. Actual field conditions have determined that the proposed sloped curbing would require re-grading the existing grass area around existing trees, potentially causing damage to the root system. In order to preserve the health of these trees, Mr. Litchfield approved vertical curbing to be installed and asked that the grading near the corner of the parking lot be revised to direct more water toward bio-retention Area #1. The Commission confirmed with Mr. Litchfield that bio-retention Area #1 is large enough to manage the change in grading and that bio-retention Area #2 would remain viable. Mr. Litchfield noted that the engineer would approve and stamp the changes to the plan and discussed the plant material and bio-retention area conditions. The Commission discussed the drainage changes and agreed with Mr. Litchfield's approved changes.

Otis Street Culvert Replacement and Road Work Updates

Mr. Litchfield updated the Commission on the Otis Street culvert replacement. Mr. Litchfield informed the Commission that the replacement is moving forward and the old abutment was removed last week and backfilling has begun. During the installation of the three sided box culvert, the contractor found a sewer line just below the required elevation for the footing and were able to work around it. Mr. Litchfield is expecting the project to be completed by late summer or early fall and noted that he hopes to replace the Church Street culvert next year. Ms. Kalloch-Getman displayed photos from her site visit and confirmed the river bed work was complete and back to grade. The river substrate matched the existing conditions and the contractor used boulders and variable substrate material sizes as requested. Mr. Litchfield noted that a few very large boulders shown in the photos will be removed to avoid blocking the flow of the culvert and that river rock was hand placed in the culvert last week. Mr. Litchfield also noted that the dam flashboards are failing and water is coming under the dam. Ms. Kalloch-Getman noted that the contractor had purchased tarps at her request and is keeping stockpiles covered at the site.

The Commission thanked Mr. Litchfield for the ongoing road paving throughout Northborough. Mr. Litchfield noted that Crawford Street was completed and Church Street, South Street and Hudson Street are next to be completed. The Commission confirmed with Mr. Litchfield that Route 20 paving is complete with the exception of a small punch list. Mr. Litchfield also noted that traffic signal hardware is to be replaced on Bartlett Street.

120-122 Ridge Road, 247-1093, Certificate of Compliance

Ms. Kalloch-Getman informed the Commission that the owners of 120-122 Ridge Road completed the septic replacement and are passing papers on the property this week and installed sod to avoid

concerns about stabilization due to poor grass growth. Ms. Kalloch-Getman displayed photos from the site visit and confirmed there are no outstanding issues.

Ms. Guldner motioned to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 720 Howard Street. Mr. Tougas seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Tougas motioned to approve the minutes of June 15, 2015. Mr. Todd Helwig seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously in favor of approval.

The Commission noted that they would like one week to review minutes prior to the Commission meeting. Ms. Jacquie Goring confirmed she would complete minutes to allow one week review for Ms. Kalloch-Getman and one week for the Commission. The Commission requested the July minutes be ready for approval during the September meeting.

Discussion Items:

Lincoln Street School- Ms. Kalloch-Getman stated that she has visited the site several times and it looks very good and the site contractor has been very responsive. Ms. Kalloch-Getman informed the Commission that she has been conducting standard site visits on Wednesdays and requested additional erosion controls near the culvert where sidewalks are being added.

Newton Street Roadway Improvements: Ms. Kalloch-Getman informed the Commission that the pre-construction site visit with Mr. Ramadan, Mr. Vito Colonna and Mr. Glenn Krevosky was cancelled due to weather and rescheduled for Wednesday August 12, 2015. Ms. Kalloch-Getman noted that the culvert is currently dry and they hope to complete the work soon. Ms. Kalloch-Getman visited the site and checked the trees flagged for removal along the common driveway at which time she approved their removal. Ms. Kalloch-Getman confirmed that the common driveway and roadway improvements have not begun and that there are delays with the utility company. Ms. Guldner noted she had observed a two trees down near the ponded area which Ms. Kalloch-Getman will look for during the pre-construction site visit.

Davis Street: Ms. Kalloch-Getman informed the Commission that the new owner, Mr. Randy Doyle, has been consistently working on the site. Ms. Kalloch-Getman conducted a site visit after the August 4, 2015 storm and observed no significant erosion.

370 SW Cutoff: Ms. Kalloch-Getman displayed photos of the site and informed the Commission of a large soil pile which was not properly stabilized. Ms. Kalloch-Getman observed material in the nearby storm water basin and requested that the soil pile be taken down and stabilized. Ms. Kalloch-Getman also observed sediment pushing against the silt fence, areas where the silt fence was loose and unstable and trees and branches that had fallen onto the silt fence. Ms. Kalloch-Getman walked the site with Mr. Dan Leahy, the site manager, and reviewed the ongoing issues. Ms. Kalloch-Getman confirmed that the silt fence is still functional and that some areas that had been stabilized and some branches were removed. After one week not all of the issues had been addressed and there were still concerns. Ms. Kalloch-Getman met with the property owner, Mr. DePietri, Mr. Paul George and Mr. Leahy onsite one July 28, 2015. Mr. DePietri was reluctant to comply with the Order of Conditions. Mr. Young and Ms. Kalloch-Getman also met onsite with Mr. Leahy and confirmed that the soil pile would be reduced in size and hay bales would be added along the base. Later the pile was reduced and approximately 2/3 of the hay bales which were requested to be added were installed. Mr. Leahy has agreed to designate someone onsite to walk the erosion controls daily and weekly in accordance with the Storm Water

Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Ms. Kalloch-Getman noted that a significant amount of filling will take place and that the erosion controls are currently acting as a limit of work but will become extremely important once filling begins. Ms. Kalloch-Getman has arranged for weekly site meetings on Wednesdays. Ms. Kalloch-Getman did not observe significant erosion issues after the storm. The Commission discussed Mr. DePietri's concerns with the Order of Conditions and the memo following the site visit. Mr. DePietri replied to the memo that he felt comfortable with the requests and did not feel it necessary to attend the Commission meeting.

112 West Main Street: Ms. Kalloch-Getman informed the Commission that the property owner contacted her regarding a failed retaining wall. The Commission previously issued an Order of Conditions for the property for a patio. Ms. Kalloch-Getman conducted a site visit and confirmed the wall must be repaired as soon as possible for safety reasons. The retaining wall is just within the 100' buffer. Ms. Kalloch-Getman issued an administrative approval and requested that erosion controls be installed at the base of the driveway.

Administrative Matters

Upcoming Projects: The Commission discussed the Church Street culvert replacement. Ms. Kalloch-Getman attended a brief meeting regarding the culvert replacement and the potential for road widening. Ms. Kalloch-Getman will continue to be updated on the project and the Commission will be able to have input on how the substrate is managed.

Board Secretary: Ms. Kalloch-Getman introduced the new Board Secretary, Jacquie Goring.

Asian Long Horn Beetle Report: Ms. Kalloch-Getman informed the Commission that 10 trees had been cut during the last reporting period and that no new infestations have occurred outside of the regional area.

Sudbury Valley Trustees Newsletter: Ms. Kalloch-Getman informed the Commission that the Sudbury Valley Trustees included the Tri-Town Landscape Protection Project on the cover of their most recent newsletter.

Upcoming Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions Workshops: Ms. Kalloch-Getman informed the Commission of the upcoming Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) workshops and meetings.

Next Meeting Date: The September meeting date is 9/14/15 with site visits on the 12th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jacquie Goring