



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Conservation Commission

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Approved
10-16-2017

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes September 11, 2017

Members Present: Greg Young (Chairman), Diane Guldner, Wayne Baldelli, Justin Dufresne

Members Absent: Tom Beals, Maurice Tougas, Todd Helwig

Others Present: Mia McDonald (Conservation Agent), see attached Sign-In Sheet

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and made an announcement that the meeting is being recorded and also to mute cell phones.

Approval of Minutes – Meeting Minutes dated July 10, 2017 and August 14, 2017 were tabled to the next meeting.

Ms. Guldner read into record the hearing notice for the Notice of Intent application for 120 Hudson Street.

Notice of Intent (120 Hudson Street, Map 53; Parcel 15 – DEP File #247-1138):

Applicant: John Oakes
Request: Landscaping Work
Jurisdiction: The Riverfront Area to the Assabet River

John Oakes and Liz Marcoux (Garden Keep) were in attendance. DEP has not issued a file number yet. Mr. Oakes provided proof of mailings. Members visited the site. Ms. Marcoux said they will be removing trees, weeds, and poison ivy between the lots. Five trees total will be removed near the edge of the slope. She explained the specific plant list that will be used for planting. There are existing large boulders at the side of the house area. Shrubs will be placed at the flat and sloping area that goes down to the driveway. She stated that she is experienced with planting on slopes. She explained the placement of boulders and silt fencing on the plan. She said she relies on the viability of the plant so the soil does not wash away; she wants them well established. She will make sure there is no runoff, exposing the root ball of the new plants. Michael Furgal (Furgal Tree & Landscape) will be removing the trees. The distance from the river is approximately 70 feet. The trees in the back will be cut down as far as they can; no stumping. The side trees will not be an issue, though Ms. Marcoux would prefer the side trees stumped in order to have a cushioned area for planting. Mr. Oakes would like to start relatively soon. It was confirmed that the two trees at the top will be ground; the three trees by the river will not be able to be ground; they will be cut down as far as possible. Having no further concerns, Mr. Baldelli made a motion to close the Public Hearing and issue a standard Order of Conditions pending a DEP File Number, adding a Special Condition that there be no stump removal for the trees closest to the river; Ms. Guldner seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

Informal Discussion (83 Maple Street, Map 52; Parcel 1; DEP File #247-631):

Discussion: Possible work within the 15 foot no disturb area of a resource area.

Arthur Butt was present at the last meeting to discuss the work that was done up to the edge of the stream and the addition of a foot bridge which was not covered under the original 20+ year old Order. It was left at that meeting that before the next meeting Mr. Butt would identify the 15' mark as he saw it,

and if all parties involved agreed on a solution for restoration, it could be reflected on the certified as-built plan before a Certificate of Compliance was issued; nothing has been done by Mr. Butt. Mr. Litchfield will be asked to send him a letter stating that the work is to be completed by the October site visits and he will be requested to attend the October meeting.

Old Business:

65 Cherlyn Drive – The Building Department issued a Cease & Desist because work is being done without permits. Mr. Young walked the site; it appeared that trees are being cut inside the 15' no disturb, there are concrete blocks 20' off of the wetlands and sonotube holes are dug. Mr. Litchfield has had conversations with the gentleman. Ms. McDonald will meet with him on site to do a delineation; nothing more will be done without a permit. Ms. McDonald was asked to do a delineation. Ms. Guldner observed survey work being done; the surveyors said they believed he was in the wetlands. The proposed work is not known. Mr. Baldelli suggested issuing a Cease and Desist. Ms. McDonald will visit the site and if any work is within the resource area, an Enforcement Order to cease will be issued and he is to submit an application for the proposed work and restoration. If the work is in the buffer zone only, he will be told to stop work and file an application; no Enforcement Order will be issued at that time.

Davidian's – They are meeting with the BOS tonight.

432 Whitney Street (Santos Anza) – Mr. Young has not heard anything. Ms. Guldner believes he is doing something at 429 Whitney Street.

Bartlett Pond – Ms. McDonald is working on the Notice of Intent. Mr. Young asked if it would be a summer treatment or a late spring treatment; it depends on the water level. Mr. Baldelli said one of the recommendations from the dam evaluation was for a siphon facility in order for us to regulate the dam as needed. Ms. McDonald will forward the members a copy of the report. The Commission owns it; it needs to be a priority, and we need to decide what we want to do. It will be on the October agenda for further discussion and will also be discussed at budget time.

Requests for Certificates of Compliance:

195 Crawford Street, Map 60; Parcel 72 – DEP File #247-1122 (hold) – 2016 septic repair. Ms. McDonald will check with Mr. Litchfield as to why it is on hold.

76 Lincoln Street, Map 75; Parcel 40 – DEP File #247-1078 (hold) – Mr. Young visited the site as well as Ms. Guldner. It appeared that something was done to Pond 2 and it was wood chipped on top; he did not see any plantings. Mr. Litchfield told Mr. Young that he talked to the engineer who said possibly they were waiting for the plants to germinate themselves; we did not ask for that. We asked them to do the same thing they did for Pond 1; scrape, bring in a better medium, plant that medium and we would need a growing season. There was also nothing done about the water runoff from the parking lot to the basin. Ms. Guldner said they discussed putting in a berm to slow the water down, but nothing was done. The engineer will be requested to provide a status update for the next meeting.

Other Business (as may legally come before the Commission): None tonight.

The next meeting will be held October 18th with site visits tentatively scheduled for October 14th (tentatively).

Mr. Baldelli made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Guldner seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Rich
Commission Secretary