

TOWN OF LANCASTER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Lancaster Community Center
June 14, 2016

Present: Ken Rapoza, Chair; Jim Lavallee; Ruth Anderson and Peter Farmer

Absent: Nathan Stevens, Vice-Chair and Tom Christopher

Also Present: David Koonce, Conservation Agent

There being a quorum present, Chair Rapoza called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Public Hearing – Request for Determination, The Trustees of Reservation, George Hill Road

Present: Josh Hasenfus; The Trustees of Reservation

At 7:02 PM Chair Ken Rapoza read aloud a Notice of Public Hearing thereby convening a public hearing for the purpose of considering a Request for Determination filed by property owner The Trustees of Reservations for proposed work in the 200-foot Riverfront Area, Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and associated 100-foot Buffer Zone at George Hill Road, further identified as Assessor's Map 37, Lot 162. The project entails control of invasive non-native vegetation through selective removal by hand and/or cut stem or targeted foliar application of glyphosate-based herbicides using a directed hydraulic sprayer.

Mr. Josh Hasenfus was present to represent The Trustees of Reservation. Mr. Hasenfus stated that The Trustees would like to do treatment of the land known as Dexter Drumlin land on George Hill Road for invasive vegetation, mostly multi-floral rose.

Mr. David Koonce asked what type of herbicides would be used for the project.

Mr. Hasenfus stated that he was not sure which exact ones would be used at the moment but stated that they will most likely be using commercial grade round up and will be sure to follow the manufactures instructions for application.

Mr. Peter Farmer asked if there would be any spot spraying.

Mr. Hasenfus stated that yes they will be cutting and treating the stems of some plants.

Mr. Koonce asked if a report will be drafted stating the success of the treatment.

Mr. Hasenfus stated that they usually don't write a report but if the Commission requests one they can supply one to them.

Mr. Koonce stated that there was no need to draft a report just for the Commission but if one is done then he would like a copy for the file.

At 7:07 PM Mr. Peter Farmer made a motion to close the public hearing for George Hill Road. Mr. Jim Lavallee seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

At 7:08 PM Mr. Peter Farmer made a motion to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability for George Hill Road. Mr. Jim Lavallee seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

New Business

Conservation Commission Member Appointments

Chair Rapoza stated that he attended last night's Board of Selectman's meeting where they discussed the Commission members who are up for reappointment. Chair Rapoza stated that the Selectman were uneasy about appointing four members to the same term. The Selectman have requested that the Commission have them staggered to a one year term, two, two year terms and a three year term.

Chair Rapoza suggested that his term be for one year, Mr. Nathan Stevens and Thomas Christopher be for two year terms and Ms. Ruth Anderson have a three year term.

None of the Commission members had any concerns with the proposed terms.

Chair Rapoza will notify the Selectman of the Commission decision.

Commission Re-Organization

Chair Rapoza stated that the Commission needs to vote on the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission for the new fiscal year.

At 7:10 PM Ms. Ruth Anderson made a motion to keep the Chair and Vice Chair as they were last year, with Ken Rapoza as Chair and Nathan Stevens as Vice Chair. Mr. Peter Farmer seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Items for Approval and/or Signature

Minutes from March 8, 2016 Meeting

Mr. Peter Farmer and Vice-Chair Stevens both had some minor corrections to the minutes.

At 7:15 PM Mr. Peter Farmer made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Jim Lavallee seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 3-0-1. Chair Rapoza abstained.

Public Hearing – Notice of Intent, South Lancaster Academy, 180-198 George Hill Road

Present: Alton Stone, Alton Engineering, representing applicant and Jeffery Lambert, South Lancaster Academy

At 7:15 PM Chair Ken Rapoza read aloud a Notice of Public Hearing thereby convening a public hearing for the purpose of considering a Notice of Intent filed by South Lancaster Academy on behalf of property owner Southern New England Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventist's for proposed work within the 200-foot Riverfront Area and 100-foot Buffer Zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at 180-198 George Hill Road, further identified as Assessor's Map 37, Lot 160A. The project entails redevelopment of schools facilities: new fields, driveways, parking areas and success roads, buildings

walkways, underground storage tank removal and construction of Stormwater management infrastructure.

Mr. Jeffery Lambert stated that South Lancaster Academy is looking to improve the parking areas to allow for more parking and improve the existing athletic fields.

Ms. Ruth Anderson stated that the Commission was approached with the idea of improving the athletic fields last year but there was a question of the area being in a flood plain.

Mr. Lambert stated that has hired, Mr. Alton Stone from Alton Engineering to work on the project and will let him explain the project details and the question of flood plain.

Mr. Alton Stone went over the location of the project along with the details of the scope of work. Mr. Stone stated that the project entails the reconstruction of the athletic fields, construction of new soccer fields, baseball fields and basketball court, construction of a new building and access roads, new parking areas and Stormwater management system.

Mr. Stone went over all the details of the construction that will be done on the property, including details for the Stormwater management system that will be places under the new parking area and discharge into the stream after treatment.

Mr. Stone stated that erosion controls will be installed on the property along with snow fencing for so limit of work.

At 8:14 PM Mr. Peter Farmer made a motion to continue the public hearing for South Lancaster Academy. Mr. Jim Lavalley seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Continued Public Hearing – Request for Determination of Applicability, National Grid, Seven Bridge Road

Present: Area Residents

Chair Rapoza stated to those present that no presentative of National Grid is present for the continued hearing. Chair Rapoza stated to those present that the Commission is not holding a tree hearing, which will be done later with the Department of Public Works, the Commission enforces the Wetlands Protection Act and the Local Wetlands Bylaws.

Ms. Joan Richards asked how many trees will be trimmed and how many will be removed.

Chair Rapoza stated that the Commission asked National Grid for the number and type of trees that will be removed and trimmed for the relocation of the line.

Ms. Richards asked if the Commission denies the permit could the applicant petition to DEP.

Chair Rapoza stated that the applicant could appeal to DEP and they are typically less stringent.

Mr. Koonce stated that he heard from Ms. Judy Schmitz from DEP contacted him with some questions regarding project. Mr. Koonce suggested to the Commission that they continue the hearing.

There were many questions from those present regarding the project and the details of the proposed trees cutting.

There was a discussion with those present at the meeting and the Commission members regarding the history of the proposed work area and a past filing with the Commission and Board of Selectman by National Grid.

Chair Rapoza informed those present that the Commission has asked National Grid to include a details pf the tree cutting and possible alternatives for the line relocation. Chair Rapoza stated that the items requested at the last meeting may be taking longer than expected to produce to the Commission.

At 8:58 PM Mr. Jim Lavallee made a motion to continue the public hearing for work proposed by National Grid along Seven Bridge Road. Ms. Ruth Anderson seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 3-1-0. Mr. Peter Farmer voted against continuing the hearing.

New Business

Discussion, Marcello Barbieri, Proposed Eagle Scout Project

Present: Marcello Barbieri

Mr. Marcello Barbieri stated that he spoke to Mr. Koonce about his proposed project to clear an existing trail on North Main Street.

Mr. Barbieri had pictures of the trail showing the over growth that appears along the existing path.

Mr. Barbieri stated that he would first remove the fallen branches and then trim and rip up some of the vegetation, and replant some of the dead areas.

Mr. Lavelle asked what would be planted on along the trail.

Mr. Barbieri stated that a conservation mix would be used.

Ms. Anderson advised Mr. Barbieri to not rip out any plants that belong in the area and should focus more on invasive plants.

At 9:07 PM Mr. Peter Farmer made a motion to allow for the work to be done on the trail along the end of North Main Street as part of an Eagle Scout Project. Ms. Ruth Anderson seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Discussion, Fence extension, Langen Road

Present: Bill and Betsy Spratt

Chair Rapoza stated that work on the property includes the extending of an existing fence which was stopped due to an intermit stream in the area.

Mr. Bill Spratt stated that he called the Highway Department in regards to placing rip rap around the brook and the installation of the fence to ensure it was not too close to the street.

Mr. Koonce stated that he went out to the property and measured the area of work and noted that work is being done within the 100 foot buffer zone as well as the 25 foot no disturb area. Mr. Koonce stated that the work on the property needs a filing with the Commission.

Chair Rapoza asked what work was left to be completed on the property.

Mr. Spratt stated that another 300 feet of fencing needs to be installed, which will require some trees to be removed.

Chair Rapoza stated that the fence will act as a buffer for 25 foot no disturb area, and has no concerns with its location.

Mr. Farmer stated that at a Request for Determination of Applicability should be filed with the Commission.

Mr. Koonce stated he can help Mr. and Mrs. Spratt file out the application.

Discussion, Atlantic Union College

Present: Les Aho and Silas McKinney; Atlantic Union College

Mr. Koonce stated that while out on a site visit for South Lancaster Academy he noticed at Atlantic Union College an excavator removing an underground fuel storage tank near the Buffer. Mr. Koonce stated that he measured the distance from the wetland and the storage tank was 90 feet from the wetlands. Mr. Koonce stated that he asked the contractor on site to install hay bales where the soil was disturbed.

Mr. Koonce stated that he has no concerns with the work that was done on site but suggested that a Request for Determination of Applicability be filed for the Commissions records.

Mr. Les Aho stated that he will make sure that the College a Request for Determination of Applicability with the Commission.

Public Hearing – Request for Determination of Applicability, North Lancaster, LLC Lunenburg Road

Present: Bill Hannigan, Hannigan Engineering, Inc.

Mr. David Koonce stated that he had forgotten that there is already an Order of Conditions for the work proposed in the Determination.

Mr. Bill Hannigan stated that a Notice of Intent was filed a few years ago for a gas station that was never built along Lunenburg Road. Mr. Hannigan stated that as part of the filing for the gas station a well and Stormwater work was proposed. Mr. Hannigan stated that he has redrawn that plans to show this work.

Mr. Koonce stated that no vote needs to be taken on this but to note that the application has been withdrawn from the applicant.

Continued Public Hearing – Request for Determination of Applicability, FC Stars, 70 McGovern Blvd

Present: Bill Hannigan, Hannigan Engineering, Inc.

At 9:53 PM Mr. Peter Farmer made a motion to close the public hearing for 70 McGovern Blvd. Ms. Ruth Anderson seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

At 9:54 PM Mr. Peter Farmer made a motion to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability for 70 McGovern Blvd. Mr. Jim Lavalley seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Items for Approval and/or Signature

Minutes from April 26, 2016 Meeting

At 9:55 PM Mr. Jim Lavalley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Ruth Anderson seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

The Commission signed the Determination for 80 Fire Road 11 that was approved at the May 24th meeting

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the public meeting adjourned at 9:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Hampson
Office Manager