

TOWN OF LANCASTER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Lancaster Community Center
October 25, 2016

Present: Nathan Stevens, Vice-Chair; Tom Christopher, Jim Lavallee and Bonnie-Mae Smith

Also Present: David Koonce, Conservation Agent

Absent: Ken Rapoza, Chair; Ruth Anderson and Peter Farmer

There being a quorum present, Vice-Chair Nathan Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Public Hearing – Request for Determination of Applicability, Town Of Lancaster Forest Committee – Hill Top Road

Present: Zachary Williams, Eagle Scout Candidate, representing Applicant

At 7:01 PM Vice-Chair Nathan Stevens read aloud a Notice of Public Hearing thereby convening a public hearing for the purpose of considering a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Zachary Williams on behalf of the Lancaster Town Forest Committee for proposed work within Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and associated 100-foot Buffer Zone on property owned by the Town of Lancaster at Hill Top Road, (Eugene Christoph Memorial Forest). The project entails the creation of a walking/hiking trail including the placement of a three (3)-foot wide, maximum 60-foot long boardwalk crossing a wetland area.

Mr. Zachary Williams stated that he is from Troop 1 in Lancaster and he is representing the Town Forest Committee and for his Eagle Scout project he is looking to do a wetland crossing around 60 feet long 3 feet wide with about 5 feet of clearance through the Eugene Christoph Memorial Forest.

Mr. Koonce stated that the trail goes through several parcels in the town forest and the long term plan for the town forest is to have the trail run through additional parcels as well and loop back. Mr. Koonce went on to state that there is an existing trail in place that will be extended with the proposed board walk. Mr. Koonce stated that he measured the length for the board walk at 60 feet but will go out to the site again in a few weeks to measure again to see if the length can be shortened.

Mr. Stevens asked if the trail and board walk are located on town land.

Mr. Williams stated that the trail and board walk are located on parcel 19 of the town forest.

Mr. Koonce stated that the board walk will need to be built out of pressure treated wood.

Mr. Stevens asked how the board walk would be constructed.

Mr. Williams stated that he would build the board walk in sections off site and will be connected by a middle pole and strung together.

Mr. Stevens asked if there would be any cutting involved with the construction.

Mr. Koonce stated that any digging will be done by and only minimal vegetation removed.

At 7:14 PM Mr. Thomas Christopher made a motion to close the public hearing for the Lancaster Forest Committee. Ms. Bonnie-Mae Smith seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

At 7:15 PM Mr. Thomas Christopher made a motion to issue a negative determination for the Lancaster Forest Committee. Ms. Bonnie-Mae Smith seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Continued Public Hearing – Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation, P.J. Keating CO., Located off Lunenburg Road

Mr. Koonce stated that the applicant has requested a continuance to the hearing.

Mr. Koonce updated the Commission on the status of the consultants review of the wetland delineation stated that they have added 16 new flags and the engineer is in the process of adding them to the delineation plan as well as drafting a report for the Commission.

At 7:18 PM Mr. Jim Lavalley made a motion to continue the hearing for P.J. Keating. Ms. Bonnie-Me Smith seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Old Business

Ms. Bonnie-Mae Smith recused herself from the meeting.

Update, 30 Perry Road

Mr. Koonce stated Mr. Christopher and himself went out to the site to take a look at the progress. Mr. Koonce stated that the two large trees have been removed, and now they are in the process of cleaning up the mess that was made during the removal. Mr. Koonce stated that there was some ground disturbance and has requested that the erosion controls be restored on site. The next step on the site is to remove the stump and install the tight tank and trench.

Mr. Christopher stated that while they were on site last week they spoke about stabilizing the site with erosion control matting.

Ms. Bonnie Mae Smith, owner, stated that water seems to puddle near the front door of the house because water is flowing down the existing cart path.

Mr. Christopher advised her to place from stone or vegetation in the areas of concerns to help with the water.

Ms. Bonnie-Mae Smith returned to the meeting

Minutes for Approval, September 13, 2016 and September 27, 2016

Minutes from September 13, 2016

There was not a quorum present to vote on the minutes from September 13, 2016, they have been tabled to the next meeting on November 22, 2016

Minutes from September 27, 2016

At 7:48 PM Mr. Jim Lavalley made a motion to approve the minutes of September 27, 2016 as written. Mr. Thomas Christopher seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Items for Approval and/or Signature

The Commission signed three Orders of Conditions that were approved at the last Conservation Meeting on October 11, 2016; DEP file numbers 193-0538, 193-0502 and 193-0537.

New Business

Filing fees

Mr. Koonce stated that the Commission has seen a lot of after the fact filings and would like to amend the filing fees to include an additional charge to all filings done after the fact. Mr. Koonce stated that he would like to bring this to a meeting in the new year.

Next Commission meeting

Mr. Koonce stated that the Commission's next meeting will be November 22nd due to the elections being held on the second Tuesday in November.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the public meeting adjourned at 8:02PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Hampson
Office Manager