

TOWN OF LANCASTER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Lancaster Community Center
May 23, 2017

Present: Chair Ken Rapoza, Nathan Stevens, Vice-Chair, Thomas Christopher, Peter Farmer, Jim Lavallee and Bonnie-Mae Smith

Absent: Ruth Anderson

Also Present: David Koonce, Conservation Agent

There being a quorum present, Chair, Ken Rapoza called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Public Hearing ,Notice of Intent, Lancaster Friends of the Nashua River, Cook Conservation Area off Lunenburg Road

Present: Peter Stanton, Lancaster Friends of the Nashua River

At 7:01 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 Lancaster Friends of the Nashua River on behalf of property owner Town of Lancaster for proposed work within Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, Bank, and 200-foot Riverfront Area off Lunenburg Road (Route 70), further identified as Assessor's Map 19, Lots 12 and 17 (Cook Conservation Area). The project entails trail bridge replacements on McGovern Brook and an un-named perennial stream in order to provide safer access for users.

Mr. Thomas Christopher stated that he is a member of the Lancaster Friends of the Nashua River and helped with the application so he will be recusing himself from the hearing but will answer any questions the Commission has on the project.

Mr. Peter Stanton gave the Commission a brief background on what the Lancaster Friends of the Nashua River do and stated that they have adopted the Cook Conservation Area as theirs to maintain. Mr. Stanton stated as part of that maintenance they have cleaned and maintained many trails and are looking now to build two bridges along the trails for better access.

Mr. Stanton stated that the bridges have been designed thanks to a WPI student's final project and will complete when the water level is low.

Chair Rapoza asked if they would be drilling holes for the posts.

Mr. Christopher stated that they will have to dig holes for the posts. Mr. Christopher went on to state that all the work will be done by hand and should take only a few days to dig and pour the footings.

Mr. David Koonce stated that he went out to the site last week. Mr. Koonce stated that the proposed is a simple project and the existing bridge is in need of repair.

Mr. Koonce suggested that Mr. Christopher speak to the building inspector to see if a building permit would be required for the bridge, and to keep any disturbance away from the river banks.

Mr. Jim Lavallee asked how far from the bank would work be done.

Mr. Christopher stated about five to six feet. He went on to state that the project will make the trails more ADA complaint.

Mr. Lavallee asked if the bridge would be constructed on site or off site.

Mr. Christopher stated that the bridge will be constructed on site and put in place with a tractor.

Mr. Koonce informed Mr. Christopher as part of the Special Condition n refueling may take place on site.

Mr. Christopher stated that a tarp will be placed under the tractor.

At 7:26 PM Mr. Peter Farmer made a motion to close the public hearing for the Lancaster Friends of the Nashua River. Ms. Bonnie Mae-Smith seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0, Mr. Christopher did not vote.

At 7:27 PM Mr. Nathan Stevens made a motion to issue an Order of Conditions to the Lancaster Friends of the Nashua River for the construction of trail bridges on the Cook Conservation Area. Mr. Peter Farmer seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0, Mr. Christopher did not vote.

Mr. Thomas Christopher returned to the meeting.

Public Hearing Amended Order of Conditions DEP file number 193-0457; Patrick Byrne, Lot 5 Seven Bridge Road

Present: Chris Anderson, Hannigan Engineering and several area residents

At 7:28 PM Chair Ken Rapoza read aloud a Notice of Public Hearing thereby convening a public hearing for the purpose of considering an Amended Order of Conditions filed by filed by Patrick Byrne. The property is located at Lot 5, Seven Bridge Road, further identified as Assessor's Map 30, Lot 68.A. The requested amendment pertains to the re-location of the proposed house and driveway access within Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and associated 100-foot Buffer Zone in order to provide safer sight lines along Seven Bridge Road (Route 117).

Mr. Chris Anderson stated that the original Order of Conditions was issued back in 2011 but with the Extension Act was extended till 2018. The Order allows for a single family home with a driveway.

Mr. Anderson stated that they are looking to relocate the driveway for safety reasons due to the curve in the road way and heavy traffic to improve sight line. The relocated driveway will require 1000 square feet of wetlands to be filled and the house to be turned slightly to fit the relocated driveway. A 1500 square foot replication is proposed and will use as much of the excavated soil as possible.

Mr. Koonce agreed that the previously approved driveway location had horrible sight lines. Mr. Koonce asked if the details of the replication area could be added to the plans as well as a plantings list for the area.

Mr. Anderson will update the plans to include the replication area details.

Mr. Lavallee asked if there would be enough soil excavated to create the replication area.

Mr. Anderson stated that they will have to supplement some of the soil with a wetland mix but will use as much as they can from the area that is filled.

Mr. Koonce stated that the original Order was pretty standard with nothing unusual and stated that he had no concern with the proposed amendment.

There were several area residents present with concerns of Stormwater across the street from the location and behind.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Stormwater and what if any effect the proposed driveway relocation would have.

At 7:54 PM Mr. Nathan Stevens made a motion to close the public hearing for the amended Order of Conditions for Lot 5 Seven Bridge Road. Ms. Bonnie Mae-Smith seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 6-0-0.

At 7: 55 PM Mr. Peter Farmer made a motion to issue an Amended Order of Conditions for Lot 5 Seven Bridge Road. Mr. Nathan Stevens seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 6-0-0.

New Business

McGovern Boulevard Violations

Present: Chris Anderson, Hannigan Engineering

Mr. Koonce stated that he sent a copy of the Enforcement Order to all the Commission members before the meeting.

Mr. Anderson stated that new erosion controls measures are now in place. Mr. Anderson stated that he was no site today and took some pictures to show the Commission.

Due to heavy rains some of the slope washed out, rip rap has been installed in some areas and other will be hydro seeded once the weather dries out. A silt sock has been installed to catch some of the sediment that is in the water.

Mr. Koonce suggested that the town's engineer, Haley and Ward, be on site to do monitoring on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Koonce also stated that the work done on site has not been done according to the plans submitted.

Mr. Nathan Stevens asked how much of the work is within the Commissions jurisdiction.

Mr. Koonce stated that not much of the work is located in the Commissions jurisdiction.

Chair Rapoza asked where the material came from for the slopes that are on site.

Mr. Anderson stated that he was not sure but believes some come from the gravel pit on site.

Mr. Peter Farmer stated that he had not been on the site in some time and would like to go out to review the remediation that is being done as well as the work that has been performed so far.

Mr. Koonce will work to get a site inspection for the area for those interested in going.

Discussion, South Lancaster Academy,

Present: Alton Stone

Mr. Alton Stone stated that the property currently has an Order of Condition that was issued last year for several improvements to the school. Mr. Stone stated that since the approval a lot of work has been done to detail the project and costs.

Mr. Stone stated that the project has been changed from the approved Order of Conditions to a smaller project.

Mr. Stone went over the details of the project changes which remove the additional parking and building but will still include alterations to the playing field and Stormwater measures.

Mr. Stevens for the details on the drainage for the field.

Mr. Stone stated that drains will be installed under the loam on the field which will go through the new Stormwater measures that are also being installed.

Mr. Stone stated that he was before the Commission to see if they would like an Amended Order of Conditions or if the changes could be seen as a site change.

The Commission held a discussion regarding the changes to the plans and if an Amended Order would be needed. Since the changes to the plans are now less then approved no Amended Order of Conditions will be required.

Approval of Minutes May 9, 2017 meetings

The Commission reviewed the minutes from May 9, 2017

At 8:54 PM Mr. Thomas Christopher made a motion to approve the minutes from May 9, 2017 as written. Mr. Nathan Stevens seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 6-0-0.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the public meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Hampson

Office Manager