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By KWilber/Assistant Town Clerk at 2:30 pm, Oct 18, 2023



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Conservation Commission

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Conservation Commission

Remote Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2023

APPROVED

10/16/23

Members (Remotely): Greg Young (Chair), Tom Beals, Justin Dufresne, Diane Guldner, Todd Helwig

Members Absent: Dan Clark

Staff (Remotely): Vincent Vignaly (Conservation Agent), Owen Jones

Others (Remotely): Rashid Shaikh; Joseph Losano

The Chair opened the remote meeting at 6:00 p.m. and made the announcement that the open meeting of the Northborough Conservation Commission is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Healy's Executive Order of March 29, 2023. An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency. All members of the Northborough Conservation Commission are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely. This Order allows the Conservation Commission to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. The public is encouraged to follow along using the posted agenda unless the Chair notes otherwise. Members of the public who wish to view the live stream of this meeting can do so by going to Northborough remote meetings on YouTube via the link listed on the agenda. Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will feature public comment. The process was explained.

Member & Staff Roll Call: Tom Beals, Justin Dufresne, Diane Guldner, Todd Helwig, Greg Young, Vincent Vignaly (Conservation Agent); Owen Jones

Ms. Guldner read the legal ad posted in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette newspaper on August 31, 2023, for the following public hearings:

Notice of Intent: 138 Bartlett St. (Map 66, Parcel 3) DEP#247-1236

Applicant: Matthew Coutu

Request: Replace an existing failed septic system and build a 24' x 24' garage.

Jurisdiction: Riverfront Area and 100' Buffer Zone.

The minutes for the August 14, 2023, meeting of the Conservation Commission were reviewed. Mr. Vignaly stated that the minutes for the July 10, 2023 were not yet prepared.

Ms. Guldner made a motion that the minutes for August 14, 2023, be accepted and Mr. Helwig seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Beals-yes; Dufresne-yes; Guldner-yes; Helwig-yes; Young-yes; motion approved.

Continued Stormwater Management and Land Disturbance Permit: 311 Crawford Street (Map 57, Parcel 14) Permit # 2023-04

Applicant: Bandi Chiranjivee & Manaswini Kokkula

Request: Land alteration to construct a new single-family home, well, and septic system, with associated site work.

Jurisdiction: Part of a Common Plan of Development

Mr. Vignaly indicated that he has not received any information in the past month from the Applicant. Mr. Young stated that this is the fifth month that this matter has been continued. Mr. Young noted that if nothing is received by the next meeting of the Commission that this matter be closed, and a decision made based on the information before the Commission.

Mr. Beals made a motion to continue the hearing for 311 Crawford Street to the next meeting; Mr. Helwig seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Beals-yes; Dufresne-yes; Guldner-yes; Helwig-yes; Young-yes; motion approved.

Notice of Intent: 138 Bartlett St. (Map 66, Parcel 3) DEP#247-1236

Applicant: Matthew Coutu

Request: Replace an existing failed septic system and build a 24' x 24' garage.

Jurisdiction: Riverfront Area and 100' Buffer Zone.

The applicant requested a continuance. They will have responses to Mr. Vignaly's comments on their plans for the next meeting.

Ms. Guldner made a motion to continue the hearing for 138 Bartlett Street to the next meeting; Mr. Helwig seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Beals-yes; Dufresne-yes; Guldner-yes; Helwig-yes; Young-yes; motion approved.

Continued Application for Stormwater Management and Land Disturbance Permit: 39 & 43 King Street (Map 82, Parcels 30 & 31) Permit # 2023-08

Applicant: ZHS Trust, Rashid Shaikh

Request: Alteration to construct a new retirement home community, with associated site work.

Jurisdiction: Buffer Zone, 15' No Disturb Zone, 30' No Structure Zone

Mr. Shaikh was in attendance with Joseph Losanno, his engineer. Mr. Vignaly stated that he has received the information needed, the application has been completed and he asked Mr. Losanno to do a quick review of the project and answer any questions from the Commission. Mr. Losanno showed the site plan and delineated the proposed parking lot, the building, three recharge areas. The main difference from the previous plan is the extra detail added to the areas that will need to be protected during construction due to steep slopes. He pointed out the temporary containment areas for sediment control; and two locations for proposed dewatering basins. The proposal includes the erosion and sediment controls for the 39 & 43 King St site work, sewer extension work in King Street, demolition at 38 King Street, and the work required for the King Street realignment to Southwest Cutoff.

Mr. Losanno provided an Exhibit Plan and gave a quick explanation of the limit of disturbance for the project. They will be connecting into a sewer manhole at the intersection of King Street and West Main Street. A proposed sewer line will run along King Street. Also included are the areas of disturbance for the site connections to water and gas lines in the Southwest Cutoff, the cut through to Southwest Cutoff and the demolition of the parking area. Mr. Young stated that the area of most concern is the wetland area at the rear of the lot, the steep slope in that area. The current proposal ensures that temporary sediment basins are set up so that all the water doesn't get directed to a single defense, the perimeter line. They have reinforcement along the perimeter barrier as well as some areas and check dams to help slow the flow and control it within the site. This is a review under the Land Disturbance By-law. It includes the area that is the wetland resource area next to the site as well as areas downstream associated with the drainage in King Street. All the information Mr. Vignaly was looking for has been provided. Mr. Helwig recused himself from this project. Neither Mr. Beal nor Mr. Dufresne had any questions.

Ms. Guldner made a motion to close the hearing and issue a Stormwater Management and Land Disturbance Permit for 39 and 43 King Street and Mr. Beals seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Beals-yes; Dufresne-yes; Guldner-yes; Young-yes; motion approved.

Mr. Young asked Mr. Shaikh for his timeline to begin construction. Mr. Shaikh indicated that they still need to receive the Demolition Permit from the Building Inspector. They are starting next week for the demolition but the whole project will take a couple of years. Mr. Young suggested that when the Erosion Control Device is installed that Mr. Shaikh contact Mr. Vignaly to have him review it.

Informal Discussion

95 Indian Meadow

Mr. Vignaly stated that the Commission voted to issue an Order of Conditions last month, but the DEP number had not been received. The applicant had proposed to fill 500 square feet of wetland and replicate 300 square feet. Judy Schmidt from DEP said that if the amount of wetland area and replication are not at least 1:1, a Water Quality Certification is needed. The applicant revised their plan so there is only 400 square feet of fill and 400 square feet of replication. Mr. Vignaly received a revised plan, and the DEP requested the applicant clarify the replication standards so

additional plans were submitted. Mr. Young stated that it is only administrative at this point, and it has already been voted. Mr. Vignaly indicated that the applicant was willing to wait for the issuance of the Order of Conditions to confirm that things were resolved with DEP. Mr. Vignaly said that the Order of Conditions should be ready to be picked up by the applicant this week.

Mount Pisgah and Edmund Hill

Mr. Vignaly spoke to Wigmore Forestry Resources Management. Mary Wigmore is working on the contract and it should be in place soon. Mr. Vignaly has received a few emails regarding concern about commercial forestry operations in town and is explaining what is planned. He was at Apple Fest and people seemed to be pleased with how things were progressing. The Trails Committee member were initially hesitant that they wouldn't have the ability to comment, but currently they are on board with the process. Mr. Vignaly has added a link on the Conservation Commission website regarding forest stewardship. He asked that the Commission review it and make comments or suggestions about what to add. The link describes the process, the status and what things are going to happen in the future. Currently there isn't a schedule, so bullet items only have estimated dates.

Mr. Young felt that moving slowly was a smart approach and that the Commission intends to be transparent and stay on top of the Harvest Management Plan as there are going to be a lot of eyes on this.

Mr. Vignaly indicated that he would appreciate input from other people for the notice on the web page.

The Sustainability Committee had a display including invasive treatment at Apple Fest and Mr. Vignaly talked with them about the Commission's plan to be doing Invasives Management at Edmund Hill. The Harvest Plan will include removal of invasives along the perimeter, so the work will be helpful in reducing these risks to abutters along with the removal of the dangerous trees. Generally, people have been supportive when they hear about the scope of what is going on. Mr. Vignaly stated that he plans on managing this so that it is in the best interests of the users.

Mr. Dufresne asked that once we receive the actual plan a link be posted on the website so that it can be viewed. It should also be posted on the Trails Committee website and kiosks showing where the work is proposed to take place. It will also be necessary to coordinate timing of the forestry work with the construction of the recently approved Senior Center universally-accessible path around the pond. These two projects' work areas overlap. Mr. Vignaly stated that the ADA Trail project was noted at our last meeting to start construction next spring while the Harvest Plan may be ready to begin in the summer.

93 Maynard Street

Mr. Vignaly conducted a site visit this afternoon. There are perimeter controls up along the west side of the property. The runoff was significant because of the storm intensity. The perimeter controls were in place; however, there was some sediment laden water discharged to the abutter's property. There was so much water from the last couple of storms that one section of

the silt fence was breached, and water flowed onto the abutter's property. The applicant said he would work on it first thing in the morning and asked me to visit later in the day. He will check the property tomorrow to make sure it is completed.

Community Forest Stewardship Implementation Grant

Mr. Vignaly indicated that the Town has qualified to receive two grants; one per year for approximately \$20,000. A draft was sent to Wigmore Forestry Resource Management for comments and suggestions. He was told by Mary Wigmore that the state is anxious to disburse the grants to qualifying communities and the sooner the application is sent, the sooner we will get a response.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16, 2023 at 6:00.

Mr. Dufresne made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Guldner. Roll Call Vote: Guldner-yes; Helwig-yes; Beals-yes; Dufresne-yes; Young-yes; motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda M. DiCelle
Commission Secretary