



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

7 MAIN STREET
WHITINSVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 01588
Telephone: (508) 234-0817
Email: conservation@northbridgemass.org

RECEIVED
24 FEB -9 AM 9:59

NORTHBRIDGE TOWN CLERK
LUCAS S. ZIWEN

Meeting Minutes January 17, 2024

Justine Carroll, Cindee Cummiskey, Rich Chiras and Barbara McNamee were present. Justin Arbuckle and Chloe Mawn were absent. Barbara Kinney, Conservation Commission (NCC) Administrative Assistant and David Pickart, NCC Agent, were present.

J. Carroll opened the meeting at 7:01PM.

Citizen's Forum

None

(NCCP202301) 0 Emond Street (Map 22A, Parcels 251, 252)

Proposed construction of two (2) duplexes within the buffer zone of an isolated vegetated wetland with a vernal pool. The applicant is Bruno Orlandi, BD Homes, LLC represented by Goddard Consulting, LLC, 291 Main Street, Suite 8, Northborough, MA 01532.

The applicant has requested a continuance to the next meeting.

Motion made by R. Chiras and seconded by B. McNamee. The NCC voted 4-0 to continue the Public Hearing to February 07, 2024.

(01-RDA-2024) 531 Fowler Road (Map 21, Parcel 148)

Proposed removal of five (5) mature trees (several are dying) to provide more sunlight to the rooftop solar panels and to avoid damaging existing structures on the property. Stumps will be left in place. The applicant is Dyego Nazario, 531 Fowler Road, Northbridge, MA 01534.

Dyego Nazario explained that he wants to cut five (5) trees for more sunlight to his solar panels and several of the trees are dying. There is a stream at the bottom of the slope and the trees are at the top of the slope. The closest tree is +/-40 feet from the stream. The stumps will be left in place. There will still be a lot of trees left in place. D. Pickart recommends the NCC issue a negative #3 and #6 with the conditions that the stumps remain in place and the larger limbs and trunks be removed from the site.

Motion made by R. Chiras and seconded by B. McNamee. The NCC voted 4-0 to issue a negative #3 and #6 with the conditions stated above.

Minutes

December 20, 2023

Motion made by C. Cummiskey and seconded by R. Chiras. The NCC voted 4-0 to accept the minutes of December 20, 2023.

Other**Castle Hill**

The Blackstone Valley Heritage Corridor (BVHC) would like to set up a guided hike at Castle Hill Farm on April 20, 2024. D. Pickart mentioned that the Conservation Restriction is being submitted to the State for approval soon, but it will not be accepted by the state by that time. The NCC is interested in having the BVHC conduct a guided hike at Castle Hill Farm on April 20, 2024.

Budget

The budget for FY25 is level funded with a 2% increase in salaries. D. Pickart has requested additional funds for the Conservation budget to purchase a subscription to Nearmap (other departments are interested in using it too), funds to pay for a summer intern and \$1,000 extra to cover the cost of the Agent's mileage. D. Pickart does not get reimbursed for mileage now. The summer intern was paid from our Professional Development expense line item, but we will need those funds in FY25 to cover training for members, especially with a new member coming onboard to fill the vacancy. It is encouraged that the NCC send the Town Manager Emails of support for these additional funds.

The NCC members present performed administrative tasks (signed Orders, etc.) that were needed.

Adjournment

Motion made by R. Chiras and seconded by C. Cumiskey. The NCC voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at about 7:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE APPROVED:



Barbara A. Kinney
Conservation Administrative Assistant

02/07/2024