

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

June 1, 2005

MINUTES

Members present: Christopher Hunt, Diane Moreau, Rich Bellerose, Kevin Fife, Cathy Thibeault (along with Sarah Jessica!). Also present, Eliza Conde, Secretary.

Christopher Hunt moved, seconded by Kevin Fife to accept the minutes of May 4, 2005 as read. Motion passed.

Alden Beauchemin – Wetlands Application: Alden Beauchemin, representing Alan and Kim Hannaford presented the Commission with plans for a driveway to be constructed with wetlands impact on Tax Map R17, Lot 33D on the Class VI portion of Bean Hill Road. The best dry buildable area of the lot is in the rear of the lot north of the wetland area with the proposed driveway impacting 6,400 square feet of wetlands. Mr. Beauchemin asked for input from the Conservation Commission before he submits the application to DES. The Class VI portion of Bean Hill Road will be improved with potential blasting of a ledge.

Christopher Hunt recommended the use of straw bales, staked in and left rather than using a silt fence on both sides of the driveway. The bales will contain the silt and will deteriorate over time. Rich Bellerose questioned the use of a 12 inch culvert on Bean Hill Road. Mr. Hannaford stated he had just installed the culvert and it has worked sufficiently with the recent rains. Kevin Fife suggested that the culverts for the driveway should be 15”.

Glen Rollins – Wetlands Application: A complaint was filed with DES for disturbing soil in a wetland area on Tax Map U11, Lot 8. Mr. Rollins explained that his yard is wet because of a broken drain pipe that he believes is coming from his neighbors property. The impacted area is approximately 10’x20’. Christopher Hunt explained the process of responding to the DES letter and filling out a Minimum Impact Expedited application. The Rollins’ will respond to DES and submit the Wetlands Application to the Town Clerk for the Conservation Commission to sign.

Review plans for PB: ALV – Members reviewed the maps and discussed the Site walk on this property. There is major concern for the planned fill for the cul-de-sac, the amount of fill required and the impact it would have on the nearby brook. Discussion followed relative to shortening the road so that the cul-de-sac would end before the significant slope, perhaps giving Lot G a longer access. A driveway would have less impact on the brook area than the cul-de-sac which requires a substantial amount of fill.

The following recommendations will be forwarded to the Planning Board from the Conservation Commission:

- That the proposed road should end before the slope as the required fill would have a negative impact on the brook as the new banking would be approximately 50 feet from said brook. Recommend that the end of the cul-de-sac shoulder impact be no further than 930 feet from Keasor Road in order to minimize impact on the Wadleigh Meadow via the brook.
- The wetlands impact at the beginning of the proposed road is of concern and needs to be handled with the proper erosion controls.
- Recommend the elimination of Lot G, or merge it with Lot H to minimize the impact on the brook. Access to Lot G would negatively impact the brook.

And further, the Conservation Commission will notify the Planning Board that it would be desirable to conduct a Natural Resources Inventory on the area immediately surrounding Wadleigh Meadow. The Conservation Commission has received a grant to fund this NRI and has previously requested permission from ALV to conduct the NRI to no avail. As Wadleigh Meadow is an important natural resource for the Town of Northfield, the Conservation Commission would like the opportunity to discuss the possibility of a Conservation Easement on the meadow land. There are financial benefits that could be available to the landowner and the town would benefit by protecting this valuable water resource. The Conservation Commission is willing to work with the landowner through the Easement process.

Mark Hayes: Kevin Fife reported that work on the old ski area seems to be following erosion control methods.

Keyspan: Cathy Thibeault reported that she has received a response from Keyspan relative to their planned work along their pipeline. Work in the Misery wetland area will not be done until 2008 and they will need wetlands permits at that time. The Knowles Pond Road project will not impact Knowles Pond at all as they are installing new lines to landowners only. Keyspan is replacing the gas line on Route 140 to Shaker Road and will or have submitted a wetlands application. The Commission has no comment on the gas line project at this time.

Review any wetland permits, violations : DES letter relative to wetlands violation on Shaw Road giving an explanation of work required to rectify damage.

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Old Home day plans: Tickets are in, T-shirts ordered.

Five Rivers Conservation Trust: June 2: Conservation Commission hosting this meeting at the Town Hall.

KP Discovery day June 11: Diane Moreau reviewed plans for the day at Knowles Pond.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza Conde, Secretary.