

Northfield Conservation Commission Minutes 2/17/10

Monthly Public Meeting – Wednesday, February 17th, 2010 at 7:30pm.

The Northfield Conservation Commission met at the Northfield Town Hall, Room 5b, 69 Main St, Northfield, MA

Present: William Llewelyn, Chairman
Joan Deely
Mike Barry
Charles Blanker

Absent: David Thomas

Staff: Sarah Goodwin, Administrative Assistant

Guests: Frenchesca Maltise, Construction Firm Building the Cap
John Henry, O'Reilly Talbot & Okun, engineers documenting the work carried out
Gail Zukowski, Abutter to Landfill
Raymond Zukowski, Landfill Abutter
Northfield Resident, concerned about wetlands

7:36 Meeting called to Order by W. Llewelyn

7:40 Formal Hearings

NMH Notice of Determination for Landfill Capping – Believed they were going to be working far outside the wetland zone, but wanted to come before the board to make sure. Also to show the Board the methods and procedures they plan to follow in order to prevent off site contamination from the Dump capping and project runoff. They have already been to the US Fish and Wildlife to make sure there will be no “accidental take” Once the landfill is capped, the monitoring will continue for 20-30 years and the DEP will make that determination as to how long the monitoring required by NMH will be done. J. Henry showed the Board a number of plans and maps in order to better illustrate the capping project. He showed the actual work location from the DEP Wetlands Map online. He showed the edge of the “limit of work” being 300 feet from the high water mark and then the nearest wetland zone, from the Mass GIS mapping, to be 175 feet to the North West. Both F. Maltise and J. Henry took a site visit to be sure that there were no other wetlands not indicated in the online mapping. Resident asked how close the limit of work will be to the wells, and J. Henry responded that the work will be to the middle located test well, but not the one to the south or north. These wells will remain even after the capping and will continue to be monitored by NMH after the project. The resident raised the issue that there is flooding in the Springtime up to the base of the Toa slope, stating that the boat ramp and parking lot is underwater in the spring. The fields at the base of the slope are currently mowed for hay and might not allow for the growth of wetland plants. J. Henry wanted to stress that the reason for the capping was to protect wetland areas. The capping will encompass nearly the entire work area, the cap will consist of a geo-synthetic clay liner in the flatter area and geo-web system for the slope with meadow wildflower seeding. All the vegetation and trees will be removed in order to be thorough with the capping. Edging will consist of silt fencing and hay bails will line the edge of the project to prevent work erosion. The site will have to be maintained with mowing in order to prevent deep roots from growing and breaking through the cap. Current exposed waist in the embankment will be relocated and reburied further back in the site per the current DEP permit. Gail raised the question if hazardous materials were found and NMH would have to notify the DEP in order to deal with it. C. Blanker asked if any material would be hauled off site and J. Henry responded that no material would be taken off site and in fact material will likely be brought in to make up the levels for grading. the rainwater will flow into a drainage trench and rip rap area of laid blasted rock, which'll slow down the velocity and will be slowed down through the capping landscaping which will create a slow flow of what isn't actually absorbed by the meadow growth, will dissipate into the lower field. C. Blanker asked the actual limits of the landfill, noting that it is not completely going to be capping it in its entirety. F. Maltise said this plan was worked out with engineers and regulations established for capping landfills and the reason the hill will not be capped, only graded and re-seeded, is because there has been no material found out past the bottom of the slope. F. Maltise wanted to remind that there was. The time frame slated to do this was during the fall and the DEP wanted it done now, but NMH wanted to visit the CONSCOM first, now they will begin this year. J. Henry responded to Llewelyn's question that the work will be done throughout the site all at once, access will be off the roadway, Route 63, not through the boat ramp parking lot. Gail also raised question about methane gas being vented rather than running along the base of the cap and out into their barn. J. Henry responded that horizontal pipes with candy cane piping at the surface, even though only one location registered a small amount of methane detected, they're

taking precautions of venting throughout the site. Resident asked who of the DEP has been working on this and J. Henry responded... Mark Hailey and Dan Hall, who approved the design and signed off on the project after the site visit. Joe Coco is the supervisor in charge of the project working for Daniel Oconisons. Two to three months is the estimated duration of the project once begun and they would like to start work as soon as possible. F. Maltise asked the abutters present when would be the best time to work on the project. C. Blanker stated that the Board has a policy not to make a determination when they can not do a proper site visit due to snow cover. The NMH representatives decided to take the Board's recommendation to file a Notice of Intent once the snow is melted. W. Llewelyn recommended that NMH erect a fence along the bottom of the hill once the land is cleared after the project in order to keep local four wheelers from using the newly cleared hill for recreation. Test well results currently go to the Board of Health, not the Conservation Commission and could be an issue in the future. If the work is found to be in the wetland zone, the effect on the design will be minimal but the monitoring will be more vigorous and modification may occur if the capping area is affected. NMH determined that they would like to withdraw the Determination and will conduct an official wetland delineation and refile with Notice at a later date when there's no snow. The abutters stated that they would be happy to give NMH a call to let them know when there's high water.

7:50 Motion No motion, Determination withdrawn by NMH.

8:01 Mike Barry, South Mountain Rd, Determination – Described an intermittent stream that runs down along the property and would like to see if where he'd like to build a house would be out of the wetland area. M. Barry showed several maps to illustrate his property and possible house construction location. C. Blanker recommended filling a Request for Determination to make sure that is an Intermittent stream, which allows for building even within the 100 foot buffer and not perennial stream, which requires you build outside the 200 foot buffer zone. M. Barry asked the Board what the time frame might be in order to make a determination. M. Barry agreed to have the Board on the property for a site viewing to show that the stream is in fact intermittent. Second Request for Determination, permanent crossing of intermittent stream – was filed in order to figure out the regulations for building such a structure in order to allow for forest vehicles back into the land to build a shrub-land habitat for wildlife, which is a project currently under review by WHIP. J. Deely to look up regulations for M. Barry in regard to these filings. Motion to be made pending site visit and regulation discovery

8:15 Citizen Concerns

Threatened Wetland – There is currently an auto body shop business that has recently been given recent approval by the ZBA for a special permit to conduct an official auto repair business at 90 East Street. The resident stated that the paint booth is not up to code causing possible contamination, there are oily car parts dumped on the ground which may be getting into ground water, and there is concern that there has been fluid run off into the wetlands located next to the property and this has been going on for probably sixty years. There's also an unregulated method of fuel delivery to their heating system where fuel is being spilled on the ground, filling their pipes by hand, and possibly running into the wetland. C. Blanker inquired about the distance of the business to the wetland and the resident believes it is less than 100 feet. The resident asked if there would be an obvious sign of wetland contamination and C. Blanker responded that an oily sheen would be an obvious one although not always caused by contamination. The pollutants are outside the Conservation Commission's jurisdiction, so C. Blanker said that the DEP would actually be called to deal with the hazardous materials discussed in concern. The resident asked if the Conservation Commission could write the ZBA expressing concerns over this business and it's possible threat to the nearby wetland.

8:32 Old Business

Ethics Law Reform – All Board members must complete the online ethics test and submit completed test documentation to the Town Clerk. The online testing must be completed by April 2nd. Meetings must be posted 48 hours before without including Saturdays and email is now considered part of the deliberations of a Board as long as it goes to all members.

Pine Street Anonymous Letter from Oct. - Board members drive by for an informal sight review, but land owner could not be determined and land could not be seen under snow. Another informal sight review to occur again in the Spring once snow's gone.

8:40 Reading and Approval of Previous Minutes

Board Members signed October 21th, 2009 Meeting Minutes. To be turned into Town Secretary for archiving. Meeting Minutes from November 18th reviewed and corrected.

8:42 Motion by C. Blanker approved minutes presented with amendments. J. Deely 2nd by-cracky, all in favor. Motion passed.

8:45 Budget

Administrative Assistant Hours – 9 hrs.

FY 2011 Budget Request – Finance committee requesting next year's budget with a reduction of 5% off the bottom line. C. Blanker filled out the form during the meeting and will submit after the meeting.

8:48 Motion C. Blanker moved to request a budget of \$1,775.00 with a reduction of \$88 which would be the requested 5% reduction, keeping wages level from the previous year and reducing postage & workshops. M. Barry second the motion, all in favor. Motion carried.

8:50 New Business

Forest Cutting Plans – NMH (Old Warwick Rd), Walter Jaworski (“in-holding”, off Warwick Rd), Edward & Susan Hyrne (676 Mount Hermon Station Rd)

9:00 Mail

Town Memos – gas mileage & ZBA meetings

Organization fliers and newsletters

Umass Keystone Project, April 15th-18th – J. Deely described it as a weekend long program about land protection and forest management and it's designed to get key figures from towns to take the information and use it in their town's projects. Highly recommended, being one of the best programs J. Deely had ever been to.

9:05 Calls and Emails

None

9:15 Adjournment W. Llewelyn moved to adjourn, C. Blanker 2nd by gum. Meeting adjourned.