

Northfield Conservation Commission
December 19, 2018

Present: Bill Llewelyn, Joan Deely, Charlie Blanker, Charley Eiseman

Absent: Mike Barry

Guests: Chuck Momany

Kevin

Call to Order @7:36 pm

Hearings

NOI

Continuation of hearing – SWCA streambank erosion project, CT River

At the November meeting, NCC had requested additional information on both this project, and on the status of the Shearer streambank erosion project.

Specifically, NCC requested information on the spacing of cables to hold the logs for erosion control, as well as details on the length of the logs to be used.

Kevin stated that coir logs may be used if there was not adequate supply of material onsite.

Additional photos of the site were submitted. N

Coir logs are good for 10 years unless damaged by debris carried by the river.

In response to query from NCC, Kevin stated that live stakes may be used although he thought there were limited locations for them.

For installation, will need to accommodate both seasonal high water and phenology of dragonflies – no work can occur May-August due to dragonflies.

CB: 4" is maximum depth for the logs, what is the minimum depth?

Kevin: a slight furrow would be created to hold the logs; if those logs are not straight, they will rest/imbed in substrate.

Discussion about depth of furrows ensued. Concern raised about anchors rotting away, logs decaying or floating away.

CM: stated that these installations work "most of the time".

CB: objects to this characterization.

CM: Explains history of this project, refers to success of Sheared and Bathory (in Gill) projects.

It is noted that both of these projects have problems.

JD: Does SWCA offer guarantee for plantings? What will be the interval for NCC to review the installation of logs? Requests reporting on status of project.

CM: Acknowledges that they missed sending timely reports to NCC on the Shearer project and agreed to revisit reporting for that project.

BL: requests biannual reports on the Northfield bank stabilization site be sent to NCC.

2 Additional tasks for SWCA:

Annual reports on project sent to NCC for a period of 5 years.

Guarantee of plantings – 75% success rate of 2 years, and replacement of plants if they fail.

Kevin: Planting will likely take place in early fall. They will see how things will look and remediate if needed.

CB: Makes a motion to close the hearing. CE seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

OOC needs to be drawn up – use earlier one as template, add these specifics:

No machinery may be used;

All digging/soothing must be done by hand;

Planting guarantee is to be 75%/2 years, with replacement to be done by applicant if needed;

Inspection cycle – 5 years of annual reports to CC.

In accordance w/ NHESP requirements

Tail Race Maintenance

CM: FirstLight no longer has access to clamshell equipment used to maintain the tailrace at Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Facility.

Therefore, there is a need to construct gravel pads and structure so they can use an excavator to clear out debris.

CB: Advises that filing a permit for this work be done ASAP to allow utility to meet maintenance goals.

Shearer Streambank Stabilization Project

CM: To date, invasive plant control has occurred twice, and 1 visit was made to fix the toe of the slope. Not sure what to do next; may need to do something more substantial. 90% is fine, but that missing 10% is not good. Need to do an inspection report that will inform next steps.

Deely leaves the meeting to represent Savastano, 20 Main St. CE takes over notetaking

RDA

Invasive Plant Control, 20 Main St.

Deely presents RDA for invasive plant control on property at 20 Main St., Tom and Anne Savastano, owners. Project will be cut stem treatment of bittersweet vines.

Although MassOLIVER map shows a stream, it is an intermittent stream that arises from the ground. No connection to up-gradient supply. The stream does not appear on either MASS DEP maps or on USGS topo maps.

CB: Even it is a resource area, proposed treatment doesn't appear to have any impact

BL: Doesn't see and major problems.

SB: motion to issue negative determination; however, lacking a quorum will need to defer final vote until January meeting.

CE seconds, passed unanimously.

Deely rejoins meeting

Minutes

JD makes a motion to accept 10/3/18 meeting minutes as revised. CE seconds, passed unanimously.

Minutes that Michele sent us need to be printed out and signed at January meeting.

Archeological digs by utility have been completed.

Selectboard member Blythe offered to post the need for an administrative assistant for the NCC.

BL will contact member Adam Senser – he has attended only one meeting since joining earlier this year.

Next Meeting – January 16, 7:30 pm.

CE moves to adjourn, JD seconds. Meeting ends at 8:37 pm.

James
Chapin
Bill Flurdy