

Whately Conservation Commission
Wednesday, November 18, 2020
Via Zoom

Commissioners present: Andrew Ostrowski, Ann Barker, Montserrat Archbald, Scott Jackson (chair), and George Owens

Others present: John Hannum, Tony Wonseski, Luke Longstreeth, and others not specified

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

1. Public hearing to consider a Notice of Intent submitted by John Hannum for construction of a Common Drive at Masterson Road (Map 18, Lot 9) in Whately. Site visits were conducted for this project on November 8 and 14, 2020. Tony Wonseski presented the project and discussed changes made to the plan in response to feedback from the Commission on the wetland boundary delineation. Tony indicated that he and John (Hannum) were in discussions with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program regarding conditions for protecting rare species on the property, and that plans would not be finalized until after those negotiations concluded. Q&A and discussion followed. A number of local residents expressed concern that the common driveway not be used for commercial purposes, contrary to current zoning. Chairman Jackson acknowledged the concern but indicated that they were not germane to the Commission's jurisdiction in reviewing the proposed project. With the applicant's permission, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to continue the hearing until 7 pm on Wednesday, December 16, 2020.
2. Request from Carolyn Collins and Dorothy Varon for an Emergency Certification to remove hazard trees at 125 North Street in Whately. A site visit for this Request was conducted on November 15, 2020. Luke Longstreeth, an arborist, described the situation and shared photos of the three Eastern Hemlock trees at issue. The trees are located on the bank of Roaring Brook and are very close to the house. The three trees all have structural defects that could lead to failure at any time, and they lean over the house making it likely that they would fall on the house if they failed. Q&A and discussion followed. The Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to issue an Emergency Certification permitting the removal (cut and removal leaving the stumps in place) of the three trees.
3. The Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to accept the minutes from the October 21st meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Jackson