

Whately Conservation Commission
Wednesday, January 20, 2021
Via Zoom

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

Commissioners absent: George Owens

Others present: Mark Wamsley (Kestrel Land Trust)

Meeting convened at 7:05 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. On behalf of the applicant, Tony Wonseski requested (via email) that Conservation Commission continue the hearing until our next meeting. The Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to continue the hearing until 7 pm on Wednesday, February 17, 2021.
2. Request for a Certificate of Compliance submitted by Long Plain Solar, LLC. A site visit for this request was conducted on January 16, 2021. On behalf of the applicant, Tony Wonseski requested (via email) that Conservation Commission postpone consideration of their request until our next meeting. The Commission agreed to wait and take up this request at its next meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2021.
3. Wetlands Violation on property owned by Charles Dauchy on Chestnut Plain Road. The Commission reviewed the following proposal from Tom Litwin and Lincoln Fish.

For "small" invasive plants (5' tall or shorter): foliar spray during growing season with a dilute solution of 2 herbicides mixed in water: 4% Garlon 4 Ultra (triclopyr) and 3 oz per 100 Gallons Escort (metsulfuron methyl). For the late summer treatment, 2% Rodeo (glyphosate) will be added to the mix and the concentration of Garlon 4 Ultra will be reduced to 2%.

All of the above herbicides are included in the Massachusetts Sensitive Areas Materials List website:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/rights-of-way-sensitive-area-materials-list>

Information about the toxicity and mode of action of each herbicide can be found on this website.

For "large" invasives (greater than 5' tall, or invasives climbing into desirable native shrubs that cannot be sprayed without damage to the natives): sever the stem with chainsaw or pocket saw and apply solution to cut stem: 25% Garlon 4 Ultra dissolved in basal oil (a light horticultural oil).

For 2021, two site visits are proposed, one during June and one during late August/early September. At minimum, the recently mowed area viewed by Lincoln Fish, plus representative of Whately Conservation Commission and Kestrel Trust, will be treated. Invasives in the surrounding landscape will also be treated by the above-described methods to the extent that the budget allows.

During 2022 and 2023, a single visit per year will be made and the remaining invasives will be treated with the above-described methods. After 2023, the project will be turned over to the landowner and neighborhood volunteers to monitor and hand-pull any colonizing invasives in order to provide long-term support to the re-establishment of the native plant community.

Mr. Litwin, via an email message, agreed that he will incur the expenses for the 2021 applications to the wetlands violation area, will commit additional funds to allow for coverage of the entire mowed area so that invasives in the wetland and non-wetland (buffer zone) portions of the mowed site are treated, and will donate funds to cover the expenses for the one-time applications in 2022 and 2023. At the

Commission's December 16, 2020 meeting, and during a site visit at which the Commission was represented by Montserrat Archbald, Mr. Litwin also agreed to monument the property boundary in the general vicinity of the area that was mowed. The Commission voted (3 to 0, with Jackson abstaining) to accept this proposal.

4. The Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to accept the minutes from the December 16th meeting.

5. Updates and Other Business

- Commission Chair (Jackson) reported that on January 14 he sat in on a meeting of the Williamsburg Conservation Commission at which MassDOT discussed possible options for managing storm water associated with the repaving of Haydenville Road in both Whately and Williamsburg, near the Mountain Street Reservoir. This project is likely to come before the Whately Conservation Commission later this year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Jackson