

Whately Conservation Commission
Wednesday, August 24, 2021
Via Zoom

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

Commissioners absent:

Others present: Ed Lewis, Bill Swazey (Yankee Candle), Anthony Woneski (SVE Associates), Jennifer Dukett (Nexamp), Peter Westover and Dick O'Brien (Conservation Works, LLC)

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

1. Request for a Determination of Applicability submitted by the Yankee Candle Company, Inc. to install an electrical power line to its facility at 102 Christian Lane. The site visit for this Request was conducted on August 23, 2021. Ed Lewis presented the project. There was no significant discussion and the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to issue a negative Determination of Applicability without conditions.
2. Request for a Certificate of Compliance submitted by Long Plain Solar, LLC. The Commission Chair (Jackson) opened the discussion by indicating that the Commission had received an email from Tony Woneski stating that Nexamp had used crushed stone to stabilize the farm road where it joins the access road for the solar farm. That email was forwarded to Commissioners prior to the meeting. Commissioners individually inspected the work. After two days of heavy rain the site was found to be holding up well. The Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to issue a Certificate of Compliance without conditions.
3. Public Hearing for a Notice of Intent submitted by the Kestrel Land Trust, to upgrade the trail system at the Whately Woods property, off Chestnut Plain Road. Scott Jackson recused himself due to his role as a member of the Kestrel Board of Directors. The Commission received the Notice of Intent on August 24 and Commissioners did not have time to review the submission. MassDEP had not yet issued a file number for the project or commented on the Notice of Intent. The site visit for this project was conducted on August 22, 2021. Peter Westover presented the project, going through designs for the three components of the project: bog bridging, bridge replacement, and stairs. Discussion and Q&A followed. A question was raised about whether the trails needed to be ADA compliant. Montserrat said that she asked Brian Domina about the issue and he said he would look into it. The Commission voted 4-0 with Jackson abstaining, to continue the hearing until 7:05 pm on September 15, 2021.
4. The Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to accept the minutes from the August 4th meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Jackson