



Town of Wales Conservation Commission

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Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2024

Present: *Jennifer Bothwell (Jennifer B.) – Commission Member, Zachery Berry (Zach B.)-Chair - Commission Member, Joanie D'Ambrosia (Joanie D.)-Commission Member, Sarah Ryan (Sarah R.), -Clerk*

Public Present: Eleanor Szlachetka, Dan Wilder

ZB opened the public meeting at 6:00 pm.

Public Hearings:

****Agenda Item: 30 Peck Rd. -NOI**

ZB opened the public hearing at 6:01pm.

The commission conducted a site visit at 166 Monson Rd/30 Peck Rd on January 2nd, 2024. Dan Wilder from Norcross Wildlife explained to the commission where “fire breaks” (exposing the soil) would be implemented, near the minor area of concern, specifically where the white pine trees are located. Ms. Szlachetka, an abutter, had concerns about wildlife protection, protective barriers between the project and her property and the burning of poison ivy. The applicant was able to address these concerns, explaining the position of the fire breaks and the timing of this burn is to be done specifically to protect the wildlife before they become active for the season. Mr. Wilder explained that he is not anticipate burning poison ivy as it predominately grows near the road and that is outside of the burn area.

Motion 01112024-01 by ZB to close the public hearing for 30 Peck Rd./166 Monson Rd., Notice of Intent - DEP File # WE 314-0181 submitted by Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary, Seconded by JB. No discussion, all in favor.

Roll Call Vote: Jennifer Bothwell	Y
Joanie D'Ambrosia	Y
Zachery Berry	Y

Motion 01112024-02 by JD to approve the Notice of Intent for 30 Peck Rd./166 Monson Rd., Notice of Intent, DEP File # WE 314-0181 to conduct a controlled burn in the spring of 2024 with conditions, Seconded by JB no discussion, all in favor.

Roll Call Vote: Jennifer Bothwell	Y
Joanie D'Ambrosia	Y
Zachery Berry	Y

The commission will condition that replanting of vegetation will take place if it is conducive to what they are trying to achieve. The commission would also like a site plan of the burn site, indicating the location of the firebreaks and landscape around the proposed burn area. Mr. Wilder will need to notify the commission of the intended start date and any changes to the plan need to be brought before the commission prior to the start.

Other Business:

****Agenda Item: RFP from Planning Board**

The clerk explained that the Planning Board had recently completed an RFP Ranking process and one of the firms seemed to specialize in third party reviewing for conservation commission applications. So, in the future if the commission is seeking third-party review services, McClure Engineering, Inc. would be recommended.

Minutes to be approved: 11/30/23.

Motion 01112024-03 by JB to approve the 11/30/23 meeting minutes as written, Seconded by JD no discussion, all in favor.

Roll Call Vote: Jennifer Bothwell	Y
Joanie D'Ambrosia	Y
Zachery Berry	Y

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52pm.
Next meeting is February 15, 2024, 6pm at the Wales Senior Center.