



Town of Wales Conservation Commission

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Meeting Minutes – April 1, 2022 ALL VIRTUAL MEETING

Present: Robert Herbert (**Rob H.**) – *Chair*, Norma Thompson (**Norma T.**) – *Commission Member*, Hugh Brower (**Hugh B.**) – *Commission Member*-, Jennifer Bothwell (**Jennifer B.**) – *Commission Member*, Sarah Ryan (**Sarah R.**) – *Clerk*

Public Present: Dan Wilder (Norcross Wildlife Foundation)

Rob H. opened the public meeting at 3:01 PM.

Old Business:

****Agenda Item: 30 Peck Rd. – Chapin Meadow Site- Norcross Wildlife Foundation-RDA**

Rob H. reopened the public hearing at 3:02 PM. Dan Wilder explained the location of the site and the proposed work. Mr. Wilder explained that this particular area where the work is proposed has a very unique ecosystem, where they would like to promote further growth, but invasive species are present. Norcross has contracted out with an ecological services company out of Cambridge, MA to manage the invasive species. The work proposed includes physical removal of invasive species by cutting to knee length and then in the summer months they would be painting with herbicides via a handheld sprayer directed at the base of the plant. No soil disturbance is expected on the site other than walking around the site for application. **Hugh B.** wanted to know if any spraying would take place within 100 ft. of the brook. Mr. Wilder explained that the goal is to stay as far away from the brook as possible, spraying would occur by hand within inches of the base of the plant, performed early in the morning to reduce chances of wind drifts due to high wind. If it is too windy then application will not take place that day. Garlon herbicide will be used and is designed for application in a wetland environment. Mr. Wilder anticipated after treatment this year and reassessing next year that additional application will be needed. If that happens the commission will be notified. Mr. Wilder and Norcross want the native vegetation to thrive and invasive species to struggle. Putting effective management in place will promote the growth of the unique species.

Motion 040122-01 by Rob H. to close the public hearing for the RDA, 30 Peck Rd. - Chapin Meadow Site – Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Seconded by **Hugh B.**, no discussion, all in favor.

Roll Call Vote:	Norma Thompson	Y
	Hugh Brower	Y
	Robert Herbert	Y
	Jennifer Bothwell	Y

Motion 040122-02 by Hugh B. to issue a negative determination for:

Reason #3: The work described in the Request is within the Buffer Zone, as defined in the regulations, but will not alter an area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filling of a Notice of Intent, subject to the condition that no application will take place within 100 ft. of Vinica Brook, Seconded by **Norma T.**, no discussion, all in favor.

Roll Call Vote:	Norma Thompson	Y
	Hugh Brower	Y
	Robert Herbert	Y
	Jennifer Bothwell	Y

Other Business:

Stafford-Holland Rd. – BSC Group

The commission previously approved and conditioned utility pole work on 12/20/21 where a pole was to be located on the North West Bank. The commission observed a pole on the North East Bank in Stevens Brook. This is a violation of the conditions issued by the commission because it altered a resource area. The commission will be reaching out informally to the point of contact (Carolyn Gross) from the BSC Group informing them of the violation, requesting that the pole be moved 25 ft. from the bank and that they restore and stabilize the area. The clerk had recently reached out to Ms. Gross and it was conveyed to the commission that they plan on conducting a site visit to investigate this, the commission would like to be present for the site visit.

Motion 040122-03 by Rob H. to authorize the acting agent to issue a notice of violation to the BSC Group, that the work conducted is a violation of the conditions for Stafford-Holland Rd approval, **Seconded by Jennifer B.**, no discussion, all in favor.

Roll Call Vote:	Norma Thompson	Y
	Hugh Brower	Y
	Robert Herbert	Y
	Jennifer Bothwell	Y

180 Union Rd.

The commission has received the Forest Cutting Plan for 180 Union Rd. Rob H. will be conducting a site visit with the applicant/harvester. The FCP shows that cutting is taking place outside of where the property line is according to the town tax map. The commission is concerned that the lines are not correct on the map, therefore showing cutting taking place on property that is not authorized to be cut.

Norma Thompson

Norma Thompson has notified the board that she intends on submitting a resignation letter to the Executive Secretary. Norma has been on the commission and serving our community for several years, but she is confident that the new additions to the commission will be able to play an active role on the commission. Norma will be missed greatly.

Motion 040122-05 by Rob H. to close the meeting at **3:50 PM**, Seconded by **Hugh B.** No discussion, all in favor.

Roll Call Vote:	Norma Thompson	Y
	Hugh Brower	Y
	Robert Herbert	Y
	Jennifer Bothwell	Y