

Town of Pelham, NH
Pelham Conservation Commission
6 Village Green
Pelham, NH 03076-3723

MEETING OF 07/14/21

Members Present:

Karen Mackay, Paul Gagnon
Lisa Loosigian, Mike Gendreau,
Ken Stanvick, Al Steward,
Dennis Hogan,
Kara Kubit (alt) (late)

APPROVED 08/11/2021

Members Absent:

None

Paul Gagnon brought the meeting to order at 7:04 p. m. This was a fully in-person meeting. Mr. Gagnon welcomed Mr. Steward and Mr. Hogan as full Conservation Commission members. The Board of Selectmen appointed them to fill open positions. Mr. Gagnon said this was how the process should work. Mr. Steward and Mr. Hogan joined the Commission as alternates. They learned the procedures and when openings came they were prepared to replace members who resigned. The town has posted for two new alternate members for the Conservation Commission. Any town resident may apply and be considered by the Selectmen.

OLD BUSINESS:

Map 39 Lot 1-49	157 Mammoth Road – William’s Woods – Proposed expedited Dredge and Fill for a large box culvert bridge for crossing Gumpas Brook – Presentation by Luke Hurley of Gove Environmental Services, Inc.
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This case was previously reviewed by the Commission. Mr. Hurley is here to describe the wetland crossing and wetland conservation district (WCD) impacts. This permit is an expedited minimum impact permit application. There are no concerns from NH Fish and Game. This project will have minimum impacts to wetlands and is a small enough project to qualify for an expedited permit.

The project is located near the intersection of Mammoth Road and Marsh Road. This project has a shared driveway to access 3, single family house lots. The proposed driveway will cross Gumpas Brook at the narrowest point on the lot.

A 24x30 foot open bottom box culvert is proposed for the driveway crossing. The culvert has no bottom and will be placed across the brook with no impacts in the brook. The culvert will be brought in separate pieces then fastened together to form a bridge across the brook. There will be 347 square feet (sf) of impact to the wetland on the south side of the driveway and 37 sf of impact to the wetland on the north side of the driveway for installation of a guardrail. The guardrail will not be in the wetland, but grading for the guardrail will be in the wetland. Grading will be 6 or more feet from the brook at its closest. The total wetland impact for the project will be 384 sf, which will be located on the Mammoth Road (east) side of the brook. There will be no wetland impacts on the

west side of the brook. The WCD impacts will be 5,146 sf on the Mammoth Road (east) side of the brook and 12,500 sf on the west side of the brook for a total of 17,646 sf.

The footings for the box culvert will be in the uplands on both sides of the brook. There will be no impact to the banks and no impact to the brook. Mr. Hurley estimated the brook to be about 10-12 feet wide in the location of the culvert. Footings will be 8 +/- feet from the top of bank. Mr. Hurley showed the detailed plan to the Commission. Clearly defined on the plan, were the top of bank, edge of delineated wetland, the WCD, and the center line of the brook. The wetland was flagged about one year ago. The narrowest point in the brook was chosen for the crossing. At that point, the top of bank and the edge of wet is the same location because the bank drops sharply down to the brook.

Mr. Hurley contacted Kim Tuttle at NH Fish and Game to check out wildlife impacts for the bridge. Ms. Tuttle said that there was no problem if there was no impact to the wetland. The stream bed will not be impacted which will allow aquatic animal passage up and down the brook. Any trees, saplings and seedlings will be cut to allow the installation of the culvert. Stumps will not be pulled for any vegetation on or near the bank so as to maintain the strength of the bank.

This box culvert is an expensive installation for a 3 home subdivision. Mr. Hurley estimates it could cost close to \$50,000. The width of the driveway is 20 feet, with the culvert being 24 feet wide. This is narrower than a typical road. The word road was used multiple times during the meeting. Mr. Gagnon wanted to be clear this was a shared driveway so the width could be less than a town road.

Mr. Gagnon commented that Bowley Road, which is the road off Mammoth just to the north of this proposed road, has a similar sized culvert/bridge. Bowley Road enters a subdivision of 50+ houses. This subdivision has only 3 houses and has the same large culvert. He thought this was good and maybe more than necessary. Ms. Mackay thought this crossing size was reasonable so as not to back water up if the crossing was too narrow. If Bowley Road needed this size crossing, then this small subdivision may need this size crossing too. She thought this was not over and above what was needed. Mr. Gagnon said he was looking at it as capacity of traffic crossing the bridge. Ms. Mackay was looking at it as the water capacity going under the bridge. Both members agreed this proposal was great for crossing this brook.

Ms. Mackay stated that at our last review of this project the question was asked if the road could be moved north on Mammoth Road to reduce the WCD impact. Mr. Hurley said the road may be able to move north which would reduce the WCD impact, but would increase the wetland impact. Also, asked at the last review was if the land owner could give the town a right-of-way (ROW) of about 15 feet wide along the back side of the property. Mr. Gagnon said that request, by us, was not granted. There will be no ROW path on this property.

Motion: (Stanvick/Steward) to accept the crossing and have Mr. Gagnon sign the expedited permit application.

Vote: 7-0-0 in favor.

MINUTES:

Motion: (Hogan/Loosigian) to approve the minutes of June 9, 2021.

Vote: 6-0-0 in favor. Gendreau did not vote as he was absent from the June meeting.

Motion: (Steward/Stanvick) to approve the site walk minutes of June 14, 2021.

Vote: 4-0-0 in favor. Loosigian, Gendreau and Hogan did not vote as they were not at the site walk.

WALK-IN ITEMS:

None.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Motion: (Mackay/Hogan) to go into non-public session to discuss land acquisitions in accordance with RSA 91-A:3; seal the minutes of non-public; and adjourn after non-public.

Vote: 7-0-0 in favor.

Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Mackay,
Recording Secretary