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**ADAMS CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

CLERK \_\_\_\_\_ **THURSDAY, November 3rd, 2022  
6:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman James Fassell, and Commission members David Lipinski, Erica Deane, Steve Melito, Natasha Bordeaux, Jeff Randall, and Matthew Burdick

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brian Rhodes, iBerkshires.com; Isaiah Moore, Recording Secretary; Brent White, Susan Corah, and Emily Stockman Applicants;

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Fassell called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**CONTINUATION OF NOTICE OF INTENT: Filed by White Engineering, Inc. for B&B Micro Manufacturing. The proposed project is to construct a driveway and parking lot expansion on a property located within a 100-foot buffer zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetlands area.**

Chair Fassell announced the next item on the agenda and invited the applicant to present their case.

Mr. White explained that the project had actually already been completed and that the applicants were not aware that they needed to file with the conservation commission so this was to go back and right the wrong.

Mr. White explained that the company had received so much business that they had no where to put all the product they were creating.

Mr. White explained that the project was a gravel parking lot in front of the building. He also explained that there would be a series of swales and rain gardens would act as a stormwater mitigation.

Mr. White explained that some of the vegetation planned to be planted has been changed to better reflect the natural environment.

Mr. White explained that the planning board has given the applicants until February to figure out if they need addition parking or not.

Mr. White thanked the commission for their patience.

Chair Fassell asked who was going to do the work.

Mr. White responded that he wasn't sure.

Member Randal expressed that he thought the applicant did a good job but that he had one concern.

Member Randall expressed his concern that there was no straw waddle between one of the work areas and planting sites.

Mr. White recommended making a special condition on putting straw waddles between the work site and all planting sites.

Member Randal agreed with that idea.

Member Lipinski asked for clarification on whether some of the lawn depicted on the map was lawn or in fact exposed soil.

Mr. White explained that there were some places where the grass has been torn up but that those places would be repaired.

Member Lipinski asked that if the applicant needed more parking would the rain gardens being created now be enough or would they come back to the conservation commission.

Mr. White responded that they would come back to the board but that the applicants were not sure they were going to need more parking.

Chair Fassell asked if there were any more questions from the board, there were none.

***A motion made by member Randall, seconded by member Deane, to approve the application filed by White Engineering, Inc. for B&B Micro Manufacturing with the following conditions:***

***1. Any damaged erosion control measures shall be replaced and relocated to the limits of proposed earthwork.***

***2. Revise Buffer Zone Restoration Plan. The project incorporates restoration plantings, shown as "Buffer Zone Restoration Planting Area" and "Planting Area", on the Plan. Woody species would compete with and create shade that would impact any state-listed plants present and their habitat.***

*a) Therefore, the portion of the restoration planting within Priority Habitat shall exclude woody species. In this area, the restoration should focus on native seeds or plugs of non-woody plants. On the plans, Priority Habitat begins between wetland flag A9 and A10 and then proceeds eastward to incorporate wetland flags A10-A14 and encompasses most of the easterly property line.*

*b) The selected seed mix or plugs shall be native species. All plants and seed mixes applied within Priority Habitat shall be composed of species native to the county in accordance with THE VASCULAR PLANTS OF MASSACHUSETTS: A COUNTY CHECKLIST FIRST REVISION (Dow Cullina, M, B Connolly, B Sorrie, and P Somers. 2011. MA NHESP DFW).*

*c) The selected seed mix or plugs shall exclude all state-listed plants. The Division does not approve of the planting of state-listed species, even if the seeds are sourced outside of Massachusetts. Please carefully review seed mixes at the time of purchase as the specific composition and mixes change within a year.*

**3. Flag Priority Habitat.** *Prior to installation of any plantings, the location of Priority Habitat shall be visibly marked in the field ensure the point of transition from the proposed woody plantings and the non-woody plantings and the below-required mowing regime is clear.*

**4. Mowing Timing/Regime:**

*a) In areas of Priority Habitat, mowing should occur once every 2 or 3 years. More frequent or less frequent mowing or management may impact habitat for state-listed plants.*

*b) Mowing may occur between August 20 – March 1; we recommend mowing in October.*

**5. Authorization Duration.** *This authorization is valid for five (5) years from the date of issuance.*

**Motion passed, vote unanimous.**

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE:** Filed by the Susan Corah, on behalf of Specialty Minerals. The certificate is in relation to the Order of Conditions issued for the Notice of Intent project of constructing a permanent water control structure to minimize flooding.

Chair Fassell announced the next item on the agenda and invited the applicant to present their case.

Ms. Corah explained that the applicant had completed work on a water control structure a few years ago but had forgotten to get the certificate of compliance signed and finished. The applicant also realized that the order of conditions was never filed with the registry after it was granted.

The applicant explained that the order of conditions has gone missing and that they would need a new one.

Member Randal explained to the board that there was a missing link in the paperwork and explained the process of fixing the mistake.

Member Randal deferred to Ms. Stockman for further explanation.

Ms. Stockman explained that the board would just need to replace the signature page for the order of conditions with a new one.

*A motion made by member Lipinski, seconded by member Burdick, to approve the certificate of compliance for the application filed by the Susan Corah, on behalf of Specialty Minerals. The certificate is in relation to the Order of Conditions issued for the Notice of Intent project of constructing a permanent water control structure to minimize flooding and to resign the order of conditions page. Motion passed, vote unanimous.*

**REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION: Filed by Stockman Associates, LLC on behalf of Adams Spinning Mill Partners, LLC for property located at 5 & 7 Hoosac Street, requesting determination of whether the work depicted on the plan(s) referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The proposed project involves removal of vegetation and regrading around an existing mill building to prevent damage from stormwater runoff.**

Chair Fassell announced the next item on the agenda and invited the applicant to present their case.

Ms. Stockman explained that the plan was to do some maintenance work on the property.

Ms. Stockman explained that she was before the board because they were within the jurisdiction of the conservation commission.

Ms. Stockman explained that the maintenance involved stormwater management and vegetation management.

Ms. Stockman explained that she thought that this should be a negative determination because this is a historic mill.

Member Randall asked if the changed flow of the water would be going onto someone else's property and Ms. Stockman confirmed that it wouldn't.

Ms. Stockman explained that the area would be filled and loamed with a conservation seed mix.

Member Randall asked if a concrete slab was going to be removed from the property.

Ms. Stockman responded that it would not be and that the plan was to go over it.

Member Randall asked if the applicant was looking to receive credit for the restoration, Ms. Stockman responded that they were not.

Member Deane asked if machinery would be used.

Ms. Stockman responded that there would be some machinery used for tree removal and hauling away of debris.

***A motion by member Randall, seconded by member Deane, to grant a negative determination three for the application Filed by Stockman Associates, LLC on behalf of Adams Spinning Mill Partners, LLC for property located at 5 & 7 Hoosac Street, requesting determination of whether the work depicted on the plan(s) referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act with the following conditions:***

***1. Where stumping is required to remove root systems affecting any structure, areas will be loamed, seeded with a conservation mix, and mulched with clean straw.***

***2. All removed woody material will be stockpiled outside of protected resource areas and/or legally disposed of offsite***

***3. Any installed Clean Fill will be well-compacted, loamed, seeded with a conservation mix, and mulched with clean straw.***

**Motion passed, vote unanimous.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **-Updates on town projects**

Mr. Moore explained that this was placed for the town staff to give updates on the town projects but that the town staff couldn't make it tonight.

##### **-Policies and Procedures**

The board requested that their packet be created with less paper in the future, creating only a couple packets for the board to share and look at together.

#### **REVIEW MAIL:**

#### **ADJOURN:**

Member Burdick motioned to adjourn at 6:57 pm, seconded by Member Melito, passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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**Isaiah Moore, Recording Secretary**

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**Date**