

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY WETLANDS BOARD
MARCH 8, 2022
MINUTES

Due to the Northumberland County Emergency Ordinance addressing Continuity of Government during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic, the Northumberland County Wetlands Board held an in person and telephonic public hearing on March 8, 2022 in the Sheriff's Office in Heathsville, Virginia at 7:00 PM:

Present

Harry Towne – Chairman
George Rew – Vice-Chairman
Albert Fisher
Robert Vanlandingham
Lewis Howard

Harry Towne, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

No visitors were present online.

On a motion by Robert Vanlandingham, seconded by Albert Fisher, the minutes of the February 8, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

Application No. 22-0202

Anne G. Huske – to install 25 linear feet of riprap revetment along the shoreline of the Potomac River and 715 Marshalls Beach Road.

Joseph Scott, agent for the owner, said there is a blown-out pocket created by wave energy and water from the bank. He noted that there is significant undercutting.

Harry Towne stated that there is a nice beach.

George Rew said, “You need all you can get there.”

Jeff Madden reminded the Board that the County has the Beaches and Dunes Act and they will be getting a beach permit as there is a jurisdictional beach there rather than non-vegetated wetlands.

After consideration, Robert Vanlandingham made a motion to approve the application as submitted for three years. George Rew seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Application No. 22-0280

Robert J. Saylor – to install 50 linear feet of riprap revetment channelward of an existing failing timber bulkhead and install armor stone over two (2) existing failing 60-foot timber groins along the shoreline of the Potomac River and 125 Pine Shore Drive. Joseph Scott, agent for the owner, said they were covering existing groins with armor stone and placing rock channelward of a scoured bulkhead.

Albert Fisher asked if they would be able to maintain low-profile groins.

Joey Scott said they would stay at the height of the existing groins. “They may be a little higher than low-profile groins, but they will not be higher than the existing groins.

After consideration, George Rew made a motion to approve the application as submitted for three years. Lewis Howard seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Application No. 22-0255

Robert B. and Kelly B. Stimpson – to install 140 linear feet of riprap revetment along the shoreline of Barnes Creek and Tax Map Parcel #54-(1)-30-K on Barnes View Lane.

Joseph Scott, agent for the owner, said there are portions of this project which can be done as a living shoreline. “The portions that are revetment is where we are trying not to remove the hardwood trees there.” He also described how 300 feet of wetlands would be created.

Jeff Madden asked why the whole revetment could not be pulled back.

Joseph Scott said it is because we would have to cut down all those nice oak trees. “You would be sacrificing the buffer for the wall.”

Lewis Howard then made a motion to approve the application as submitted for three years. Robert Vanlandingham seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Application No. 22-0208

John Verne – to install 102 linear feet of riprap revetment along the shoreline of the Potomac River and Tax Map Parcel #18-(4)-1 on Neumans Road.

Harry Towne said that this is above MHW and may not be in our jurisdiction.

Jeff Madden described a jurisdictional beach as a beach where sand is landward of MHW and stated that if the Board believes this to be a jurisdictional beach then you have jurisdiction.

Philip Marston stated that the revised drawing shows the revetment above MHW. "I'm not sure if it will be entirely in the upland or impact jurisdictional beach."

Ron Douglas, contractor, said it will be entirely in the upland.

Philip Marston asked Jeff Madden if it should be denied without prejudice.

Jeff Madden said, "If there is a jurisdictional beach, you can approve it. If it is a non-vegetated wetland, you deny without prejudice."

Philip Marston said, "It falls back to not seeing the stakes nor seeing the alignment. It seems the safest thing to do is to act on it as if it is a jurisdictional beach."

After further discussion, Robert Vanlandingham made a motion to approve the application as submitted for three years. George Rew seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on a motion by Robert Vanlandingham, seconded by George Rew, the meeting was adjourned.

