

Ashby Conservation Commission
Minutes for the Meeting of February 15, 2012

Meeting was opened at 7:30 pm with Cathy Kristofferson, Bob Leary and Roberta Flashman in attendance.

The minutes of February 1, 2012 were reviewed and accepted unanimously as written with a change of the title from agenda to minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Nothing to report.

Correspondence:

MBTA sent a CD and a request for Comments on "Potential MBTA Service Reductions in 2012 – Environmental Notification Form" Submittal end date for comments is Feb 28, 2012. Cathy is reviewing the document. The proposal would eliminate weekend service for commuter rail (train from Fitchburg to Boston) and curtail service for the train back to Fitchburg after 10:00pm. There are other cuts, but these are the two notable ones that affect Ashby riders specifically.

Whitman and Bingham (Chris MacKenzie) sent a septic design for 75 Log Cabin Rd, Map 15, Parcel 6. Adam Hargraves is the owner. Need a site visit. Cathy will call to see if there are stakes on the property outlining the proposed system. Site visit set for Sunday, 2/19/12, 8:30 am

Old Business:

Forest Legacy Track 1 parcel – P&S is still waiting for review by Town Counsel. The document is an agreement between the town and the land owner to move forward with the Forest Legacy program. The document is an attempt to remove some of the risk for the Land Trust paying for the survey costs well in advance of the completion of the CR purchase process. The Conservation Commission is reluctant to sign this document without a review by Town Counsel.

The State agency managing the Forest Legacy Program contact NRWA and Cathy for photos of signs on the Forest Legacy properties. The wooden signs have not been installed yet.

Watatic Management Committee Meeting of January 26th. @7:00pm at the Willard Brook Headquarters was postponed due to threatened bad weather. Meeting date is still being determined.

MACC Spring Conference, Worcester, March 3rd. Three Commissioners have enrolled. Cost is up this year to \$110/ member but within our budget. Roberta will write a letter to MACC about the spiraling cost of the Annual Conference and membership fees and its potential to exceed our budget. Membership only gets us a \$5 discount.

New Business:

Brian Foster, 735 Mason Rd. He is planning a porch and living room addition on the home – built about 7 years ago. Brian will stake the proposed footprint in advance of the visit. 508-864-6994 Sunday 2/19/12 @8:00am.

Dave Amari, 75 Nash Rd, 978-386-7011. Looking at the Shepard property on Jewett Hill Rd. The Commission issued a cease and desist order against the owner/lot and eventually the owner ended up being fined by DEP. The Commission suggested that Dave call DEP and maybe Nashoba Associated Boards of Health for more information on the property. It is important to make sure that a property has been cleared of wetland violations before purchasing. Otherwise, the new owner will be liable for restoring the property.

Follow up on two anonymous tips on potential wetland violations.

1)The old Damon house at South and Piper. Report of ditch dug from the basement down to the

pond filled with rocks. Roberta will draft a letter that will then go to Tim final work before mailing. Peter Murray, 7 Piper Rd.

2) Jones Hill Road. Report of a very large barn built on the old Brodie property very close to the beaver pond. There was a building permit a while back but it was all out of the buffer zone. Tim checked from the road and was unclear about how close the barn was to the wetlands.

There is the potential for a combined ConsCom and Friends of the Ashby Library programs. They have discussed a small hiking program. Discussions are now centering around finding a date/time. Saturday in April or May have been mentioned, as well as the April school vacation week.

Wheeler Rd Stream culverts reported put in place without permits. Roberta and Cathy found the culvert and took pictures and GPS location on 2/5/12. There us a double 12" culvert insertion creating a crossing of the brook. Looks like the crossing goes from the owners home onto the abutters property. Evidence of vehicle traffic on the trail over the stream. Will investigate further and write a letter to the owner.

Cathy sat in on the Watatic Corridor Group on 2/6/12 run by Nashua River Watershed and Ashby Land Trust and others. Rt 2 and Rt 31 interchange was planned to be upgraded and might affect a property with CR on it.

Hearings: None

Hearings Scheduled: None

Site Visits Scheduled:

Sunday 2/19/12

8:00am - 735 Mason Rd. Brian Foster is planning a porch and living room addition on the home

8:30am- 75 Log Cabin Rd, Map 15, Parcel 6. Adam Hargraves is the owner. Septic Design submitted by Whitman and Bingham.

Site Visits:

Simonds Rd. beavers removal. – not scheduled yet. Unclear what is to be viewed.

Jones Hill Road, Barn - Tim viewed the property and was not able to determine whether the barn was built too close or whether the pond had risen.

2/5/12 - Peter Murray, 7 Piper Rd. Report of a drainage ditch – Cathy and Roberta had viewed the house from the road. Appears that they have dug out a new entrance to the basement. Work done within less than 50 ft of the edge of the pond. The house had been Mary Damon's house. Need to write a letter to the new owners. Cathy and Roberta

2/5/12 -Wheeler Rd. Cathy and Roberta followed up on a report of a culvert inserted into a stream. Found the double culvert (12") put in place to create a crossing over the stream. Lots of evidence of use by ATV's. Roberta will call Diana Baer, neighbor, to find out more.

2/5/12 – Wheeler Rd. Roberta and Cathy walked the single trail on the town owned property. Found evidence of lots of vehicle traffic and efforts to widen the trail through removal of trees. Need signs at the front of the property prohibiting vehicles.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Flashman