

Ashby Conservation Commission

Minutes for the Meeting of October 16, 2013

The meeting was opened at 7:30pm with Tim Bauman, Bob Leary, Cathy Kristofferson and Roberta Flashman in attendance.

The minutes of the meeting of October 2, 2013 were reviewed and amended as follows:

Cathy has been assisting the town accountant, Terry Walsh, in the review and audit of the McCauley Forest Legacy Project.

The Commission received documentation of the baselines for the Morrison Property, South Rd Fields and Blood Hill from the Ashby Land Trust. After review of the documents, a motion was made and seconded to receive the documentation on the South Rd Fields, with the Chair signing a receipt. The Commission voted unanimously, with one abstention, in favor of the motion. Corrections were offered on the Morrison property baseline and Roberta was to review the Blood Hill baseline that was emailed to the Commission members on July 26th.

With these insertions, the minutes were unanimous acceptance.

Treasurer's Report: Received a statement from the accountant on the state of the Conservation Wetland Act account.

Correspondence:

An Interdepartmental Memorandum requested review of the licenses to be renewed. The Commission's approval or reasons for not approving were being sought. In the past we conducted visits. This didn't seem like a good use of time. The request will be ignored. We currently respond to complaints or problems.

A call from Northland Engineering, Inc. requested a sign-off on septic replacement system at 71 Elliot Road, Maria and Ronald Clark, owners. Bob and Tim signed off on the plan after conducting a site visit on 10/9/13.

Old Business:

Repairs have been completed on Dam at the Ashby Compensating Reservoir. The refill is progressing slowly. Tim checked 10-1-13

Nashua River Watershed Association annual dues of \$50.00 are due. A motion to extend our membership another year with the payment to NRWA of \$50 was made and seconded. The Commission voted unanimously in favor.

Chair provided the Town Administrator with information requested on the Hunter Gelinas property on Main Street. Property is approx. 6+ acres. There was discussion about whether the Town should purchase the property. The Commission does not have money for this.

Sunny Meadow Homes, Inc has requested an Extension of the Order Of Conditions 93-258 for Lot 1C Erickson Road. Tim called DEP and confirmed permit extension thru 11-7-2015.

Bob will contact Tim Silver to have him respond to the changes that the Commission made to the Morrison property baseline. Roberta will review the documentation from July on the Blood Hill property.

The Town Clerk has reminded the Commissioners to complete the ethics training.

New Business:

Watatic Management Committee met on Thursday, Oct 10, 2013. Fire Depts. from both towns were at the meeting. Ashby Officer was also at the meeting. There was a long and protracted discussion about the placement of rocks at the mountain as a holding place for future placement at the top. Parking is an issue. Over this weekend there were over 100 cars on the highway as the popularity of the mountain continues to lead to the trail's degradation. It is unclear how the committee and the staff at Willard Brook State Park can maintain the area. There are still outstanding questions about how to re-word the Management Plan to allay fears of the property being classified as an area for active forest management. Mike McCallum will be reviewing the plan and making recommendations for re-wording.

Forest Legacy monitoring will start once the leaves are down. Cathy will write the landowner letters for the 4 properties that need monitoring.

Hearings: None

Hearings Scheduled: None

Site Visits:

Check on Dam work at the reservoir. Tim 10-1-13

10-1-2013. 860 South Road To review a request for repair of the house foundation while the reservoir is drawn down. The straw bales are in place. Tim spoke with Ms Collins, the owners, and the contractor.

10-3-13, 102 Deer Bay Road. The owner requested permission to remove siltation barriers. The Commission granted permission to remove silt fence next to the water while leaving the wattle in place. Permission was also granted to remove the next up-slope barrier and the barrier closest to the foundation. The mid-slope barrier is to remain in place. The black siltation fencing along the sides of the property may also be removed. The owner promised to re-seed all "scars" that result from removal of fencing. Cathy, Roberta, Bob, Tim and the owner were in attendance.

10-9-13, 71 Elliot Road. Review of a septic system replacement designed by Northland Engineering. Bob and Tim were on site. Tim signed and delivered to BOH. No wetlands involved.

Site Visits Needed:

102 Deer Bay Road - On-going

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Flashman