

Ashby Conservation Commission

Minutes for the Meeting of August 6, 2014

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

The minutes of the meeting of July 16, 2014 were reviewed and accepted unanimously with one small correction.

Treasurer's Report: Nothing to report

Correspondence:

Request for COC, Form 8a, was received from Frances Steffian for property at 40 South Road.

Call from Mrs. Svedberg for information to proceed with the installation of a septic system. Suggested she attend this meeting. She left a letter with a plan and a letter requesting supporting information for a determination from 2008. That Determination is expired. Any new determination would require a Request for Determination of Applicability or we could accept a Notice of Intent. With the NOI we would also like to have the Wetlands information submitted. Then we will schedule a site visit.

Letter from USDA regarding farm acreage with the CC jurisdiction and a crop history summary. It appears that this is for a farm in Townsend. Roberta will contact USDA to correct the data.

Email from DCR reminding us of the need to monitor Forest Legacy properties. There is a new monitoring form that needs to be used to report the monitoring of the properties.

Old Business

The Rolling Walk Across the State on the proposed pipeline route was held in Ashby on July 20, 2014. As many as 60 people participated in the festivities on the common at the mid-point of the walk.

A Rally at the State House as a culmination of the Rolling Walk occurred on 7-30-14. With over 500 people in attendance, the rally was very successful. There was lots of news coverage and the pipeline issues are now recognized. Commission members and others met with Senator Brewer and Rep Harrington to express concern for a pipeline being built that would tie our future to fossil fuels.

Area Conservation Commissions met with MACC representatives in Ashby on 7-30-14. A suggestion was made that Commissions enact Chapter 44, section 53g to be able to charge the cost of consultants used to define or protect wetlands to the applicants of projects. Per the MACC handbook, we will be accepting a regulation that allows this procedure and set up an account for this purpose. Cathy will investigate the wording and bring in a proposal for next meeting. We will hold a hearing during our next meeting on August 20, 2014, which we will advertise in the Sentinel.

On Tuesday, August 5th, 7PM at the Lunenburg High School, Representative Harrington co-hosting a pipeline update meeting with the Nashoba Chamber of Commerce. 3 of the 4 Commission members attended.

Follow up on Hourihan's wood debris in the Compensating Reservoir. Tim called the BOH about the wood. Bruce Adams appeared to find out what had happened. He had contacted the BOH and Cedwyn will be making a site visit as well. He also called the building inspector to check on a building that is being constructed. On the same Hourihan parcel on the pond.

New Business:

In response to a Request for a Certificate of Compliance on 40 South Rd, Tim conducted a site visit and all siltation barriers had been removed. Motion made and 2nd to sign the Certificate of Compliance. The COC was handed to Paul Lieneck for delivery to Frances Steffian.

Adam Phillips was in to pick up wetland markers, having run out of the one that the Commission gave them. (Fors on Rt 31). Requested a pre-construction site visit – Friday, August 15 @ 3:00pm.

Hearings: None

Hearings Scheduled: None

Site Visits:

7-23-14

780 Richardson Road, Graz Engineering, LLC for septic replacement. Tim signed the plans. Roberta and Tim

Roberta and Tim looked at Ashby Reservoir and the planking in the water at the site of Hourihan's property on the pond.

Roberta and Tim checked on a reported cutting near Lower Wrights Pond. The area owned by the Fitchburg Rod and Gun Club has been clear cut from the road to the stone wall near the edge of the wetlands on the Lower Wright's Pond side of the road. Bob Leary will find the contact person and request that they appear before the Commission. This is a violation of the Cutting Practices of Massachusetts and if they do not appear, should be reported to the State Forester.

Site Visits Needed: none at this time

Meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Flashman