

Ashby Conservation Commission

Minutes for the Meeting of January 20, 2016

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

After a review of the minutes of the meeting of January 6, 2016 a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Treasurer's Report: \$3.94 submitted by Bob for reimbursement from petty cash for certified mailing.

Correspondence:

Email reply from Ducharme and Dillis acknowledging a visit to 126 Turnpike Rd. (Map 5 Parcel 16.1), certifying that the proposed solar array is outside the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act. Email forwarded to commissioners. We need to visit the site

Email copy of communication between DEP (Joe Bellino) and Fieldstone Land Consultants (Chris Guida) of a letter and photographs documenting winter stabilization of the Sikkila's driveway on West Road.

On Jan 11, 2016, Roberta received a call from Marielle Stone, DEP, to check on the status of Sikkila property. She noticed that there were no Superseding Conditions and wanted to know what we thought about that before talking to Joe Bellino. Roberta will check back with Marielle Stone in another week.

Call regarding tree cutting with the Moultons. There was also a query from the abutter. Cathy called the Moultons. The abutter was upset with us, because she did not cut the trees. Bruce Adams had cut the trees. He had received permission from the Moultons to cut the trees, but failed to announce that to anyone. The Commission now needs to replace the boundary markers.

Chair forwarded communication from Pestalert@massncr.org regarding the Emerald Ash Borer now reported in Worcester by DEP.

Old Business:

Update of information and discussion of the proposed gas pipeline. Deadline for filing as an intervenor was Friday, Jan 15th. Now the DPU hearings are scheduled for March, early April. The hearings would be the first step in providing access for surveys to properties on the route of the proposed pipeline. A result of the hearings might be a temporary grant of eminent domain to Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co. National Grid filed with the DPU to have tariffs approved which would pay for the pipeline construction.

Cathy will check back with the Moultons and then update the Commission on the cutting plan for Laurel Farm.

Bob drove by McCauley's Richardson Rd property where there was a report of of horse manure too close to wetland resource. The owner was not home, so he will have to schedule a visit because he was unable to see the possible infraction from the road.

MassDEP has revised its **Snow Disposal Guidance** to assist municipalities with snow management. Cathy has created a map with topo base, roads, parcels, wetlands, NHESP, and open space. The Chair has contacted the Highway Supt. to schedule a meeting.

New Business:

Plans from Stephanie Palojarvi, Heywood Rd – new construction, map 4, lot 31 were left in the Conservation Commission's cubby. Chair contacted Doug Smith (Soilsmith). Need to schedule a site visit.

MACC annual conference will be held this year at Holy Cross College in Worcester on March 5, 2016. Everyone can submit their own and check off that the Town requires an invoice.

Sean Wechsler – lot on Ashby, New Ipswich Line – West Rd – Just north of Pam Welty. He applied for driveway permit and was told that he had to ask Conservation Commission for permission for driveway permit – YEAH!!! The property is 14.5 acres. At back of property is a small cow pond. He also wants us to see if there’s any problem with the lot as a building lot. He is proposing a driveway of 3 – 400 ft in length. The Commission will conduct a site visit on Friday, Jan 22nd.

Mr. Mark Schnyder wanted to sell his property on Richardson Rd and donate a piece of that property to the town as conservation land. He died unexpectedly. The heirs have found that all 3 parcels are on one deed. As a result, to expedite the sale, they are not going to try to break out the parcels. So, no conservation land.

Compensating Reservoir – Cathy received a phone call complaint of invasives in the reservoir. The caller wanted to know why Ashby isn’t doing anything about the plants, noting that Ashburnham takes care of this. In actuality, Ashburnham, the Town, does not treat any of the lakes. It’s the Lake Associations that treat the bodies of water. Treatments are very expensive and it is unclear that the chemical treatments, or harvesting operations for that matter, are effective without repeated treatments.

The Ashby Land Trust will be monitoring the Morrison property 10:00am on Thursday, Jan 21st.

Hearings: (None)

Hearings Scheduled: (None)

Site Visits Scheduled:

Friday, Jan 22, 9:00am

Erickson Rd – Terkanian – check on progress - driveway

Wechsler on West Rd - driveway

126 Turnpike – Martin – solar panels

Heywood Rd (old Faulter feed lot next to huge wetland) – single family home.

Richardson Rd, McCaulay - manure

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roberta Flashman