

Ashby Conservation Commission

Minutes for the Meeting of February 17, 2016

The 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 February 3, 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: Will submit an invoice for 3 members to attend the MACC Annual Meeting.

Correspondence:

Email to the Commissioners from Roberta with article of interest: "Picking Our Battles: A Guide to Planning Successful Invasive Plant Projects"

Old Business:

DPU hearings are scheduled for end of March – beginning of April, which will allow Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company onto private property to survey for the pipeline. Another DPU issue, DPU Docket 1537, is a cost recovery for electrical generators to enter into long term contracts and recover costs, namely EverSource. This would allow the costs of the pipeline to be paid by ratepayers through a tariff on their bills.

Still waiting for Bob to contact the owner of a Richardson Rd property where there has been a report of horse manure too close to wetland resource.

MassDEP has revised its **Snow Disposal Guidance** to assist municipalities with snow management. The Commission met with the Highway Supt. on Thursday, 2-4-16, and reviewed the amended guidelines. It was agreed that the two dump sites currently use (behind the Fire Station and on the south side of the Highway Dept Yard) were most appropriate. Any deviation from or addition to these sites would require the Commission's approval.

Plans from Stephanie Palojarvi, Heywood Rd. Following the site visit, SoilSmith resubmitted plans for all work outside the 100 ft. buffer. Chair signed for the BOH noting that only the house and septic were authorized and that any work on the existing drive would require additional permitting.

New Business:

Issued an Order Of Conditions for the bridge repair at Camp Middlesex. Project presented by Heidi Messing from the Camp. The Commission reviewed the conditions with the applicant and the procedures for registering with Registry and setting up the pre-construction site visit.

Joe Bellino, DEP, requested that the Commission send him an email to document the Commission's stance on the way the Sikkila project was left last Fall. Roberta wrote and sent a response, copying the Commission as well. Roberta received an email from an abutter reporting cutting and burning on the property. Tim will call the building inspector about the status of the road and its use for business.

Beth Ann and Harold Sheid want to meet with the Commission at the next meeting @ 8:00pm to review upcoming proposal for an Intentional Housing development on their properties next to the Lyman Conservation property.

Hearings:

8:00 PM, Hearing continued from 2-3-16, NOI for Lodestar/0Main. The ORAD is in agreement with the delineation on map 8 parcel 57. Project calls for the clearing and the installation of a solar field array of panels. Stream crossing involved. Conditions discussed and project approved. Hearing was closed at 9:21pm. The Commission will collaboratively write the OOC.

Hearings Scheduled: (None)

Site Visits:

1-22-16, West Rd., Sean Wechsler. Proposed location of new home and septic system. Cathy, Tim, Bob and Roberta walked the property with the owner to get a sense of whether the location was outside of the buffer zone to wetlands and a dug pond at the back of the property. Location is outside of 200' and the driveway is more than 100' from a wetland at the front of the property. Tim signed the driveway permit.

1-22-16, West Rd, Sikkila. A short site visit by Cathy, Tim and Roberta to check. Driveway is plowed and trucks are parked on the property.

1-22-16, Turnpike Rd. Cathy, Tim, Bob and Roberta walked the property to check a location for solar panels. There are no wetlands within 200 ft of the location.

1-22-16, Heywood Rd. Cathy, Tim, Bob and Roberta met on site with Doug Smith of SoilSmith. This is the property that was Doug Falter's proposed feed lot. The current proposal is for a single family home and septic system. They will use the existing driveway as is. The driveway is within 100' buffer zone to wetlands and would require an NOI for work to be done. The wetland from across Heywood rd joins to the very large wetland/wet marsh that fronts on Rte. 31. The property is 33 acres. There may eventually be a 2nd home placed on the property, to be access from the other side of the marsh, off the Bussell's driveway. The current location of the proposed house and septic system are within the 100' buffer zone. Will either need to submit a NOI or redesign the location of the house and septic system to be outside the buffer zone.

1-22-16, Davis Rd. Looking at a property owned by Kenneth Berg with the consultant, SoilSmith. Review area for location of a replacement septic system. The system will be placed on a knoll across from the house. The wetlands on the property is at the bottom of the hill beyond the logging road. At the bottom of the wooded hill is a stream. SoilSmith will bring in the plans for a signature once they are completed. Cathy, Tim, Bob and Roberta

1-22-2016, Terkanian Property, inspection of silt barriers and wetland markings. Dan Proctor with Cathy, Roberta and Tim. The most glaring wetland markers has been moved and now sported 2 nails. Erosion controls were moved to the road side of the wall. The work area near the stream also had been moved to the right side of the drive. Ok to proceed with tree removal from proposed drive.

2-15-16 - Cathy, Tim, Bob and Roberta met with Goddard Consulting Jordan Belknap and Lodestar representative, Mark Arnold, to review the new site of the crossing. The owner, Bill Duffy, was also on site for a while. The roadway will be over 40 ft wide on the south side of the crossing and only about 35ft on the north side of the crossing. A need for a bit wider road and grading to raise the driveway up to the level of the open bottom culvert drives the width. Walked to the location of the proposed replication area. Discussed the need for creating some shade for the replication – perhaps some red maples. Consented to delivering a planting plan and at least have a discussion with their engineer about narrowing the driveway at the crossing. The crossing itself is 24ft wide.

Site Visits Needed:

Richardson Rd, McCaulay. Horse Manure in the wetland?

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roberta Flashman