

Ashby Conservation Commission

Minutes for the Meeting of March 15, 2017

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

Minutes of the meeting of March 1, 2017 were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Treasurer's Report: \$42.80 submitted for reimbursement for transportation costs (mileage) for the MACC Annual Meeting.

Correspondence:

3-2-17

DCR Announces Public Meetings for Forest Management Projects in Florida, Peru, Dubuque, Warwick, Otter River and Townsend State Forests

Trustees of the Reservations – Doyle Center, 464 Abbott Avenue, Leominster, MA 01453. One project in Townsend State Forest that proposes to use uneven and even age methods to regenerate mixed hardwood and white pine will be discussed.

Email request from Karen D. Eldredge, Esquire, Prime Title Services, Inc., 100 Brickstone Square, Andover, MA 01810, Seeking a COC for 1291 Greenville Rd. Process and forms communicated. A second request was received on 3-9-17.

3-4-2017 email received Environmental Monitoring Report Week 25 and 26 and 27 - for Cassiopeia Solar Farm - 0 & 1128 Main Street. Some erosion issued reported; need to visit the site. Mark was away, so Scott was going to come to our meeting. We agreed that we would prefer to have Mark meet with the Commission on April 5, 2017. On agenda for 8:00pm. Cathy will write an email to them to request that they stop working on the replication and put the captions on pictures in the reports.

3-8-17 DEP, Denise Child, Wetlands Section Chief, Bureau of Water Resources set a site walk for Mr. Brodmerkle's appeal for 9 am on Thursday 3-16-17.

3-13-17 DEP, Denise Childs agreed to perform a site visit in response to the commission's concerns about the reported violations of Orders for the Sikkila's project on West Road. She also requested that the Commission relay the observations from a site visit to the owner, Nate Sikkila and Consultant Chris Guida.

Old Business:

Discussion and Review of MACC Conference, 3-4-17, All Commissioners in attendance. Some Commissioners have filled out the evaluation forms.

New Business:

Neal Gorman appeared to request that the Commission sign off on the project for a septic system replacement on George Rd. Site visit was conducted on 3-7-17. No wetlands were found within 200 ft of the proposed site of the septic system. A motion was made to enable signing of the plan out of meeting and seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Roberta was made aware of some minutes not being available on the website. She and Cathy found the problem during the meeting. Cathy will fix the problem.

Doug Smith discussed the RDA for 1003 Main Street, septic replacement, BLR Property Management. Note: due to late advertising, this project will carry over to the April 5, 2017 meeting. Plans received 3-13-17. Follow up to the site visit of 3-2-17. The location of the septic system is the only viable location on the property. During the site visit a serious problem with pet refuse in the wetland was noted. The property is currently a rental and so it might be hard to condition a remedy to this problem. The Determination will be issued on April 5, 2017.

Hearings:

8:00 pm NOI for 180 Turnpike Rd from Ducharme and Dillis, David Martin owner. DEP#93-360 This hearing had been continued twice from prior hearing dates which neither the consultant nor the owner were able to attend. Hearing closed at 8:11pm. Cathy will write the OOC and issue on April 5th.

8:30 PM NOI from Stuart and Pam Mulford, 71 Russell Hill Rd. Prepared by Doug Smith of Soilsmith. DEP #93-359 This hearing had been continued from 3-1-17 because notifications did not go out the abutters. Doug Smith will have to send these out and submit the actual page for the advertising. After a vigorous discussion of the project being presented and the intent of the owners, the hearing was continued to April 5, 2017 @ 8:00pm. Doug Smith will come in with a new plan. The hearing was ended for the night and continued to April 5th at 9:24pm

Hearings Scheduled:

8:00pm April 5, 2017. NOI from Stuart and Pam Mulford, 71 Russell Hill Rd. Prepared by Doug Smith of Soilsmith. DEP #93-359 This is a continuation of the hearing from 3/15/17 caused by lack of advertising and a major redesign of the project.

Site Visits:

3-2-17 10:00 am, Cassiopeia Solar Farm - 0 & 1128 Main Street. Full Commission met with Jordan from Lodestar, Mark Arnold from the consulting company, Josh Weaver, the electrician on site and Dennis Betticello, from the trucking company. The winds were horrific and 3 trees had been blown down in the replication area since the day before. Work had also been done since the prior day's visit to construct a huge berm to hold back water from flowing through the replication area. The Commission noted that the plans now available showed an existing stream existed where the replication was now in place. The replication, in the opinion of Commissioners on site was a "Failure". Roberta suggested to Mark that he concentrate on getting the water drainage from the site in place before performing any more work on the replication. She even suggested that they pick up the plantings now stranded above soils in the replication area and store them until the area was ready for planting again. Asked that they attempt to restore the downed trees with weights and stakes. Need a solution to eroding water from the road flowing into the wetland – perhaps stone check dams rather than piles of wood chips, which appeared to be allowing waters to flow under them, unchecked. Also suggested that they control the siltation from the pasture entering the stream.

3-7 -17 8:30 am, George Road for septic replacement, Neil Gorman , Cathy, Roberta and Tim. All the wetlands were outside 200 ft of proposed work area.

3-9-17 Sikkila project on West Road following up a complaint of heavy machinery noise all day and concern that there was work being performed next to or in the resource areas. Cathy and Roberta found that there had been clearing of the buffer zone well into the "forested wetland" on the far side of the 2nd crossing, between the wetland and the site of gravel excavation. Appeared that there had been recent removal of gravel.

3-13-17 Request for Cert of Compliance for 1299 Greenville Road (LaSorsa), Full Commission
There were 2 outstanding OOC's on this project. The 2nd was a modification allowing an internal barrier to the septic system rather than a wall. There was also a requirement that trees be planted on the slope to stabilize the slope that heads towards the stream. The wetlands had not been marked and the siltation barriers were still in place. The new owner will work with lawyers to determine who does the work. Will contact the Commission again when work is completed.

Site Visits Needed:

688 Jones Hill Road

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Flashman