

Ashby Conservation Commission  
Minutes for the Meeting of Dec 5, 2018

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

Minutes for the meeting of November 7, 2018 were approved unanimously as written.

Treasurer's Report: Bills submitted: \$19.32 for mileage to and from a workshop in North Hampton- ca be spent from the wetlands fund since the workshop was entirely devoted to the administration of the wetlands protection act as related to buffer zones; \$27 for printer ink; \$13.82 for certified mailing of 2 OOC's.

**Correspondence:**

- 11/8 - emails with State Service Forester about new Management Plan and 61b->61a conversion
- 11/8 - phone call with Pat Huckery of DFW regarding wetland delineation off Whitney Rd. The determination is being made by F&W and DEP because the Commission has not been on the property.
- 11/9 - email inquiry from DCR regarding Damon Pond Dam
- 11/24 - hardcopy update from 429 West Rd
- 11/24 - Ross Assoc. submitted an RCOC for Draper access road off Jones Hill Rd – see below for results of a site visit conducted on 12/4/18
- 11/28 - email inquiry from GRAZ engineering re: OOC for Repaal. It has been completed and sent.
- 11/29 - email from NRWA about grant opportunity for Harris & Piper culvert issues – see below for results of a site visit conducted on 12/4/18
- 11/30 - email from Neil Gorman requesting a site visit at 34 Beaver Rd project
- 12/3 - email from Heidi Messing about reconfiguration of septic replacements needed at 4H Camp
- 12/3 - Fall Quarterly Magazine from MACC
- 12/4 - email from Kristina Coppola re: Forest Legacy annual monitoring. Kaleb Coppola(new owner) would like to join us on our monitoring walks of the McCauley property now owned by the Coppola's.

**Old Business:**

COC for Loadstar replication - response from Town Counsel – Motion to refrain from issuing a COC for Lodestar on recommendation of Town Counsel until there are 2 full growing seasons for the plantings of the replication area. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Roberta will communicate this to Lodestar.

Ken Chaplin builder presented a change in design of house and driveway on lot 4 South Rd. The house was decreased in size, but driveway was moved into the 100 ft buffer. The Commission informed him that the process for a more than minor change to plans included a hearing and advertising for that hearing. He had thought he could just get approval for the plan changes, since he considered them minor. However, moving buildings or human activity into the buffer zone is not an inconsequential minor change. He will consider whether he will file for an amended Order of Conditions or continue with the current plans.

The Commission wrote and signed a letter of support for the project for a Grant opportunity with NRWA for culvert improvements.

Whitney Rd – there has been no determination from Town Counsel on the status of the road. Hearing has been continued. Really need to have Steve retract the NOI.

Cathy and Roberta attended the Assessor's meeting where they were discussing the Organic One change of use and large clear cut on Bennett Rd. with the Service Forester. Their issue was whether or not the property would still stay in the Chapter 61 program. There was no decision made at that time, just a hearing of the issues.

Heidi Messing and her husband, Jack Messing, came in to discuss the ramifications and changes resulting from a BOH requirement of reconfiguration of the septic replacements for 4H Camp. She will be submitting an NOI for the lower system which is outside the 100 ft buffer to Willard Brook, but inside the 200 ft Riverfront area. The upper septic leach field will be relocated, as well, to be outside the 400ft well buffer, but that system could be located entirely outside the 100ft buffer to wetlands. The Commission suggested that she might want to file an RDA to determine whether the wetlands near the upper system is protectable.

### **New Business:**

The Commission does hold an OOC on Damon Pond with continuing conditions that requires notification of draw down for maintenance of the area and/or dam repair surveying.

See below in site visits for Neil Gorman's 34 Beaver Dam Rd, Map 14 parcel 19, project revival.

Roberta showed the Commission the Build Out plan that she has been working on for Ashby. She has been using the software purchased for the Open Space Plan – CommunityViz – which uses information from the assessor database and other data layers to compute the potential future development in town using the current zoning land use rules. The projected increase is in the neighborhood of 3,000 new homes, added to our current 1200 homes. This would increase the population to somewhere over 9,000 people. She will be fine tuning the plan and sharing with the Planning Board.

Budgets are being determined. \$1700 for next year – level funding.

Roberta and Cathy monitored Mikola's Forest Legacy property on 11/29/18. Will monitor Moulton's on 12/6/18.

**Hearings:** none

**Hearings Scheduled:** none

### **Site Visits:**

11/08/2018 149 Bennett Rd, Roberta & Cathy met with Steve Sokol on site in response to a report from State Forester Mike Downey of problems with the ongoing timber harvest. Also spoke with Scott Anderson of Anderson Logging, Westminster who would not allow us onsite because of active timber harvesting. The whole back of the property, as far as the eye could see from our vantage point at the bottom of the slope of the field, had been clear cut. There was easily a foot of mud on the "road" to the field. They agreed to plant winter rye and Roberta suggested that it be covered with straw mulch to prevent erosion as well as to prevent invasive weeds to enter the field before the crop was planted in the spring. Steve told us that he had filed the paperwork with "the town" for conversion from Chapter 61B to Chapter 61A – no copies had been received by the Conservation Commission.

The new building to the south of the green house had its foundation in place. Slash and mud and trees were left in disarray at the back of the field between the new building and the road. Roberta suggested that this type of mis-management only fostered more suspicion and ill-will from neighbors.

11/8/2018 0 Turnpike Rd. Roberta & Cathy stopped at the road front of the property to check on possible problems cited by State Forester Mike Downey. The property is owned by Mike Bussell. A cherry picker was parked at the front of the property with lots of mud on its tires and all around it. Roberta called Mike B and left a message. Mike called back and was open to having the Commission walk the property as long as we gave him a call beforehand.

11/12/2018 446 Wares Rd, pre-construction site visit, Roberta, Bob & Cathy met with Parker and Ed from Proctor Excavating to review the conditions under which construction would proceed. They gave the Commission the receipt for the registering of the OOC on the deed. All trees that would be cut had been marked. The siltation fencing was correctly installed and wetland markers were in place.

12/4/2018 34 Beaver Dam Rd, tight tank. Cathy, Tim and Roberta met on site with Neil Gorman to review the project. The property is now for sale. A tight tank is the proposed septic system. It will be placed approx. 125 ft. from the edge of the pond – we checked the measurement. The area is surrounded by existing wells and ledge, so the location selected is pretty much the only location available for the tank. They need to install siltation barriers on the pond side of the excavation. We corrected the illustration for installation of wattles to reflect our preference that the outer material not be pierced by the stake used to keep the wattle in touch with the earth. Someone had cut existing trees from the area between the proposed tank location and the pond. Tim signed the plan.

12/4/2018 Jones Hill Rd, Draper access road COC; Tim, Roberta & Cathy walked the site with Neil Gorman to check on siltation, siltation barrier removal and planting of 10 trees to qualify for a Certificate of Compliance. There were no tree plantings that we could see. There was a cover of snow, so it was impossible to get a sense of whether the area was still silting into streams. There was silt in 3 of the 4 stream crossings that were viewed and there were hay bales and wattles still in place in the crossing furthest from the road. Neil told us he would contact the Forester, Gary Goldrup, to see what had been done to complete the project.

12/4/2018 Harris and Piper Road culverts; Roberta & Cathy met with Martha Morgan/NRWA and Sarah Widing/Inter-fluve to view culverts and dirt roads with an eye to a grant being written to find solutions to the perched culverts and siltation entering streams from dirt roads in Ashby, especially when culverts/streams were at the bottom of slopes in the roads. Some of the “chutes” created on Piper Rd to manage water were working and some were still broken. The siltation that had built up behind sticks and stones creating a dam in the stream on Harris Rd was easily 2-3 ft deep, completely obliterating the original stream bottom and creating a 2-3 ft drop/waterfall in the stream which would clearly present a barrier to brook trout.

**Site Visits needed:** End of Harris Rd - Wayne Hardy

Meeting was adjourned at 9:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Flashman