

Ashby Conservation Commission
Minutes for the Meeting of July 2, 2019

The meeting opened at 7:00pm with Bob Leary, Cathy Kristofferson, Tim Bauman and Roberta Flashman in attendance.

The Minutes of the meeting of June 19, 2019 were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: ESRI maintenance contract – \$400. \$199 for MACC \$4.05 for certified mail – reimburse to Roberta. \$65.30 to reimburse Mike McCallum for printing of Harris Rd Baseline documentation to be paid out of the grant.

Correspondence:

- 6/21 - received DEP file number 93-393 for Van Dyke project
- 6/24 - RCOC submissions from Goddard Consulting for Lodestar
- 6/25 - new contact information for Laurel Farm Forest Legacy property
- 6/26 - phone conversation. John Perrin spoke with Roberta about property at 600 Main St, which he purchased and would like to know whether he will be able to build a 2nd house on it.
- 6/26 - mail from Goddard Consulting with RCOC and documentation
- 6/26 - mail from Ross Associates with RCOC 242 Deer Bay Road
- 6/26 - mail from GRAZ Engineering with final plan for lot #2 Allen Road
- 6/26 - mail from Soilsmith requesting sign-off for Septic Design for 149 Bennett Rd – need a site visit.
- 6/26 - mail invoice from MACC for membership of ACC for FY2020 (\$199.00)
- 6/26 - copy of letter to BOS from FEMA regarding Flood Mapping and upcoming meetings
- 6/26 - letter from NRWA regarding 50th Anniversary
- 6/27 - Roberta spoke with Circuit Rider about how to approach a possible violation with no phone number. Also wondered about regulations concerning taking water from a perennial stream.
- 7/1 – Roberta Spoke with Theodora Cohen about the property at 1051 West Rd. She will attend the meeting of July 17th and allow a site visit on July 15th, the time to be decided as the date approaches.
- 7/1 letter from Mary McMurray requesting COC with an 8A and need a site visit.
- 7/2 Jim Passios on Mason Rd called Tim today to find out if he could still work on the properties. More than 5 years has passed since the OOC was issued. He will have to file a new NOI for each lot.
- 7/2 Bob Leary call 630 Pillsbury Rd. Asked for plan. Would email a new plan to Cathy's email. He will stake the system location and flag the wetlands.

Old Business:

Harris Road LAND Grant project status - Baseline completed parking lot installed and sign installed.

Crocker LAND project status

Ashby Land Trust proposals

Lodestar replication and RCOC. Mark Arnold and Kevin Midei from Lodestar appeared before the Commission to review the project and their request for a COC. The spillway has been approved by their engineer and flaws noted by the Commission have been corrected. Mark stated that there are more than 100% of the original plantings in the replication area that survive at the moment because of the new plantings that were made last fall and this spring: 27 surviving shrubs from original plantings and 15 cinnamon fern survived.. The Commission set up a visit to go out and verify the plantings now show on a map of the area.

New Business:

A Discussion took place in the first ½ hour of the meeting between the members of the Commission and the members of the Select Board about potential purchase by the town of a Conservation Easement on the Crocker Property.

1. Grantee is expected to write the Baseline Document – the reality is that TTOR will do the baseline for the property.
2. State requires the recipient of the LAND Grant to be the primary grantee.
 - a. Currently the CR sets up the Fitchburg Water Dept.(FWD) as Primary Grantee
 - b. Ashby would have to take legal action if there were a disagreement between primary grantee (FWD) and Ashby. Ashby's legal counsel would be willing to assist in outlining a way to resolve differences between co-equal grantees.
 - c. Ashby CC would prefer to be sole grantee or co-equal grantee or primary grantee, in that order.
3. PILOT payments – Selectmen's issue
4. Model CR – from Mike McCallum – Need a way to resolve differences between grantees. Doesn't mean that there needs to be primary and secondary grantee
5. 69.5 acres for the CR – with the buildings removed (6 acres)
6. Is the Commission in favor of the project? – Chair says yes.
7. Vote taken : Motion to support the Crocker Project governance. 3-1 in favor of the motion.

John Perrin appeared to speak about property at 600 Main St, which he purchased (8 acres) and would like to know whether he will be able to build a 2nd house on it. Allen Rd – frontage is 31 ft. Frontage on Main St is 151 ft. The Commission set a site visit for 8:30am on July 3rd.

Several people at town hall contacted members of the Commission about building and ditching at 1051 West Rd by Alex Cohen. Electrical Inspector reported being told by Alex that he did not need permits because he is a farm (hemp). Roberta wrote him a letter, since no phone number was available, informing him that he has no exemptions as a new farm and needs to talk with Cons Comm about working within the 200 ft. riverfront to the Souhegan River. Theodora Cohen, owner of the property, responding to the letter, called and told Roberta that the prior owners told her that the property was a horse farm. The Commission needs some proof of the boarding of horses within the past 5 years to qualify as a farm, since no breeding was taking place there.

Hearings/Discussions Scheduled:

7/2 - 7:45pm, 197 Harris Road, Ducharme & Dillis, Septic replacement. Hearing was closed at 7:57pm. OOC issued following the close of the hearing. DEP# 93-393.

7/2 - 8:00pm, Lodestar, RCOC, replication status

Site Visits:

6/25 - 630 Pillsbury, septic replacement, Bob, Roberta & Cathy. Nothing on-site was marked. There were wetlands on 2 sides of the field in which the system was to be located and a vernal pool across the street. Bob will contact the engineer and ask that wetlands be flagged, included on the plan and that the system location be staked in the field.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Flashman