

Ashby Conservation Commission
Minutes for the Meeting of June 5, 2019

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

The Minutes of the meeting of May 15, 2019 was reviewed and accepted as written unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: \$820.25 remains in the budget for the fiscal year of 2019. The Commission received a \$5,900 Invoice from Szoc Surveyors for the survey of Harris Rd Property. This bill is directly related to upcoming purchase of the property on Harris Rd and as such will be paid from that Account.

Correspondence:

- 5/20 - Emails with GRAZ Engineering to set up a site visit
- 5/20,22& 28 - Emails from Goddard Consulting regarding COC for Lodestar solar project
- 5/21 - Email from Janet Morrison regarding conservation of Crocker Farm project. Site visit on June 8th @ 2:00pm
- 5/30 - Email notification from MACC re forum in Leominster
- 5/31 - Email to Goddard Consulting re Lodestar replication
- 6/1 - Email from Janet Morrison postponing site walk
- 6/2 - Mail from MassDAR with emerald ash borer information – packet with info received. Cathy will ask the speaker if he can give a public presentation, perhaps at the Library.
- 6/3 - emails with Chris MacKenzie of Ducharme & Dillis re: 197 Harris Rd. He informed the Commission of an upcoming NOI submission. The Commission will not set a hearing date without receipt of the NOI.
- 6/3 - Updated plan of 0 Allen Road for hearing emailed by GRAZ
- 6/3 - email from Mark Arnold of Goddard requesting Lodestar RCOC discussion be moved to June 19. He will bring an “as Built” plan
- Received return receipt from Breitmeier for receipt of replacement OOC

Old Business:

Harris Road LAND Grant project status – A management committee for the property has now been formed and appointed by the Selectmen. It held its first meeting and is working on finalizing a Management Plan which will be submitted as part of the Baseline Document for the property, now named Caton Hill North. A sign for the property is being ordered and will be paid for from the account for the purchase of the property. Roberta is working on the Baseline Documentation for the project.

Ashby Land Trust proposals – Roberta found a decision tree for managing invasives from the Nature Conservancy. – Roberta will send to Rebecca Walsh

The Commission met on site with a representative from Lodestar and Goddard Consulting to view the progress of the replication. The consultant was not organized for the site visit and kept pointing out various survivors from the original planting of the replication without keeping count. Many of the more recent plantings showed winter kill in branches held above a very low snow line. Roberta wrote them a follow-up email in which she cited the original planting plan with numbers and species and asked that those plantings be marked onsite before any further site visits be conducted or discussions of issuance of a Certificate of Compliance.

Grassland bird signs – Cathy will order 20 signs for birds and 10 signs for no mowing beyond this point for use on the South Rd. Fields and Blood Hill hayfields.

Deer Bay Rd. John Horrigan appeared to request a site visit so that his project could be closed. Set a site visit for 9:00am Tuesday, June 11, 2019

New Business:

First meeting in July is the 3rd (bonfire night in Ashby). Do we want to reschedule? A motion was made and 2nd to move to the meeting to 7:30pm on July 2nd – Tuesday. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The Commission signed the deed for Harris Rd property. All commissioners signed. Steve Buczynski had phoned Roberta earlier in the day to report that all vehicles and trash had finally been removed from the property. The Selectmen also opened their meeting (in our room) for the purpose of signing the deed. Bob Hanson notarized both sets of signatures. Next step: setting up a date for the closing and purchasing the property.

Site plan from Chris MacKenzie for 509 New Ipswich septic replacement - needs a sign off on the plan. Site visit for Tuesday? Wednesday? Need a paper plan.

Signed building permits for 2150 West State Rd, 394 Rindge Rd & 420 South Rd.

Open Space /Cost of Community Services from UMass.

Letter to the Environmental Natural Resources and Agriculture Commission. The letter voiced the Commission's opinion that passing a bill to expedite the Wetlands Protection Act by having DEP adjudicate all appeals to local bylaws, after approving all local bylaws, would be a catastrophe. A motion was made to sign the letter and 2nd. The motion was passed unanimously.

Hearings:

8:00pm, 0 Allen Rd, Graz Engineering, NSFH, DEP #93-392, Jamison VanDyke. Hearing continued to June 19, 2019 @ 8:30 to wait for changes to the plan. Will try to have the OOC written in advance so that can be issued after the hearing is closed on June 19, 2019

Hearings Scheduled:

6/19 - 8:00pm, 197 Harris Road, Ducharme & Dillis, Septic replacement

8:30pm 0 Allen Rd, Graz Engineering, continuation of NOI hearing from June 5th, DEP #93-392, Jamison VanDyke

Site Visits:

5/16 - 5:00, 439 West Rd, Jason VanDyke, silt fence installation, Tim & Cathy

5/21 - 8:30, 274 Turnpike Rd, Dumont, replication, Tim, Roberta, Bob & Cathy met with Mike Dumont on site. The plantings have been done as of the beginning of May. The Commission suggested he could take out the hay bales and siltation fencing since things were stable and complete with the road construction. He'll need to contact us for another site visit in the fall of 2020.

5/21 - 9:00, Lot 1 Mayo Rd, Paul Glover, wetland bounds, house & septic staked, Tim, Roberta, Bob & Cathy met on site with Paul Glover. Flags for the wetlands appear accurate for this side of the wetlands. The other side has not yet been marked. There will only be one other house on the lot, as they have to be accessed by a driveway shared with an existing house and only 2 houses can share a driveway. When he brings the building permit someone will sign it.

5/21 - 9:30, 0 Allen Rd, GRAZ Engineering, Bruce Adams, Tim, Roberta, Bob met onsite with Charles Walker from Forms Up Foundation, the owner's company. Cathy was onsite, but only as an observer, since she is an abutter and has recused herself from the project. They are looking to renew the OOC, but the OOC had completely expired. The septic system and leach field are already in place. The siltation fencing needs to be replaced as they plan on raising the level of the land so that it will slope towards the wetlands with perhaps a 5 degree slope. They had marked trees for further cutting – closer to the wetlands. No cutting will be allowed closer to the wetlands than the existing siltation fencing.

5/31 - 9:00, Lodestar Solar, replication, RCOC, Tim, Roberta and Cathy met on site with Mark Arnold from Goddard Consulting and Kevin Midei from Lodestar. Many of the fall 2018 plantings are struggling: they appear to have undergone winterkill in their upper branches. There is lots of sedge on the property to the point of obscuring the plantings from fall 2016. Some plantings have been moved as recently as this spring, leaving holes in the wetlands from where they were incorrectly planted. Cathy took pictures from the site.

Site Visits needed:

End of Harris Rd, Wayne Hardy, dam condition

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36

Respectfully Submitted,

Roberta Flashman