

Minutes of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission
December 8, 2008

Present: CP: Christopher Picone, Chairman MH: Michael Horgan, Vice Chairman
MD: Marshall Dennis LC: Lori Capone, Conservation Agent

Absent: LD: Lorraine DeSouza

7:30 PM CP opened the Notice of Intent Hearing for the Stodge Meadow Association, Inc. for proposed dam repairs at the Stodge Meadow Pond dam. CP asked if there were any abutters to speak for or against the project. Abutters present were: David Cioffi and Rhonda Newman of 51 Hay Road, Bernice Maguy and Bonnie Kaddy of 96 Stodgemeadow Road, Jay Bergeron of 9 Pond Drive, Don Gillis of 57 Stodge Meadow Road, Phillis Antidormi of 5 Log Cabin Road, Richard Marble and Richard Marble II of 41 Marble Road, Brian Gingras of 54 Hay Road and Denis Maguy of 105 Stodge Meadow Road. Robert Gingras, of EBI Consulting and the Stodge Meadow Association (SMA), presented the plan to the Commission. Mr. Gingras explained that the stumps from the trees that were removed last winter under an RDA now had to get removed. SMA is proposing to remove all stumps out of the dam from abutment to abutment and replace with a stable covering. A toe drain will also be installed in order to monitor seepage through the dam. Rip-rap will be installed on the downstream side of the dam, at the boat ramp, and one area of scarping along the bank, identified in the Phase I Inspection/Evaluation Report. Mr. Gingras presented pictures of the site to the Commission. The wet area depicted on the plan is not to be disturbed at this point but SMA is hopeful that clearing the debris from the stream channel will eliminate the ponding effect the debris has caused thus expanding this wet area. CP asked if some trees should remain as it did not appear as though their root systems would impact the dam structure. Mr. Gingras explained that leaving the root system creates weep holes in the dam structure even if the root systems themselves do not impact the structural integrity of the dam. Mr. Maguy explained that the SMA are legally responsible for the dam structure and want to adhere to the Phase I Inspection/Evaluation Report to minimize liability and stated that seepage is one of the most detrimental processes to dam stability. MD asked what the compactable fill will consist of. Mr. Gingras stated that it would be comprised of aggregate with sand, covered with pack rock to prevent further establishment of woody vegetation. On the pond side, the holes will be grouted and filled but the area will be allowed to re-stabilize with indigenous vegetation via naturalization. CP requested disturbed areas along the bank to be temporarily stabilized with straw or a curlex blanket until the area re-vegetates. MD asked how far down the stream channel, the channel would be cleared. Mr. Maguy explained, with the approval of the adjacent property owner (Mr. Richard Marble), that they would be going about 20 feet beyond the property line. The SMA requested the Commission consider issuing a five year Order of Conditions due to the fact that the project was going to be completed as funds become available. Phasing of the project was discussed. The Applicant agreed to

complete the project in phases to minimize the amount of disturbed soil exposed at any given time. CP opened the discussion up to the public. Richard Marble of 41 Marble Road questioned the need to remove all the stumps affecting the dam and thought that leaving them might be better for maintaining the integrity of the dam. Mr. Maguy stated that the SMA did not want to fight with the State and wished to adhere to the Phase I Inspection/Evaluation Report. Mr. Gingras reassured Mr. Marble and the Commission that an arborist and/or a structural engineer would be employed to provide professional guidance for stumps that can not be easily removed and have the potential of compromising the structural integrity of the dam.

CP: Motion to close the Hearing

MD: Seconded the Motion

Motion carried unanimously 3-0

CP: Motion to issue an Order of Conditions per plan and discussion valid for five years due to the economic hardship this project poses to the Stodge Meadow Association.

MD: Seconded the Motion

Motion carried unanimously 3-0

Other Business:

- LC informed the Commission that LD was informed that Lake Watatic had removed some of the boards from their dam in September. The Commission requested LC write a letter to the lake association regarding this activity.
- LC informed the Commission that as requested she had sent a letter the Mr. Anderson of 12 East Rindge Road requesting his attendance at tonight's meeting regarding the erosion problem emanating from his driveway. Mr. Anderson did not attend nor provide LC with an update.
- DEP forms were signed: OOC for 0 Lower Lake Road and 73 Russell Hill Road
- CP: Motion to approve the minutes of November 24, 2008
MD: Seconded the Motion
Motion carried unanimously 3-0

CP: Motion to adjourn

MD: Seconded the Motion

Motion carried unanimously 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted by Lori Capone, Conservation Agent