

Minutes of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission
June 14, 2010

Present: MD: Marshall Dennis, Chairman CP: Christopher Picone
 LD: Lorraine DeSouza LC: Lori Capone, Conservation Agent
Absent: AA: Alana Archangelo

7:52 PM MD opened the meeting of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission under the MA Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L Chapter 131, Section 40, and in accordance with the Ashburnham Wetlands Protection Bylaw and associated Rules and Regulations.

7:53 PM MD reopened the Notice of Intent Hearing for 420 Ashby Road for the construction of a replacement septic system located within a bordering vegetated wetland and riverfront area, continued from May 24, 2010. MD asked if there were any abutters present to speak for or against the application: none were present. Angel Lehtonen of Northland Engineers presented a revised plan for the applicant, who was not present. The riparian area and 100-year floodplain has been added to the plan and additional testing has been performed. Hydric soils were found in all areas tested except for an area in front of the existing house. Groundwater was found four inches below the existing grade. Locating the system in front of the existing house would require the house as well as two wells to be moved, thus, making this option economically unfeasible. Revised pages of the Notice of Intent were submitted to reflect the riverfront area alterations. Ms. Lehtonen explained that the proposed Presby system contains pre-treatment as required by the Board of Health and suggested also installing a 40-mil poly barrier to further protect the resource areas to capture breakout, if the system was to fail. MD noted that the leach field is still proposed within a bordering vegetated wetland and therefore would require replication. MD asked that the wetlands be flagged and the leach field be rotated to minimize wetland alterations. CP asked if a retaining wall could be installed to minimize grading associated with the leach field and thus eliminate the proposed wetland alteration. Ms. Lehtonen stated that she would locate the wetland, rotate the leach field and request a Variance from the Board of Health to minimize the grading.
LD: Motion to continue the Hearing to June 28, 2010 at 8:15 PM
CP: Seconded the Motion
Motion carrier unanimously 3-0

Other Business:

- LD had requested Phil Madonia of the Fitchburg Sportsman's Club attend tonight's meeting to discuss activities performed within a wetland and buffer zone on the Fitchburg Sportsman's Club access road located off Route 119, without proper permits. Mr. Madonia also had his consultant, Roger Hoyt, attend the meeting. LD stated for the record that she is a member of the Sportsman's Club but that would not influence her decision in this matter. There were no objections with LD partaking in the discussion. Mr. Madonia explained that they had replaced the existing culvert with three culverts and widened the road. Mr. Madonia explained that the roadway was upgraded for safety reasons due to years of neglect and beaver activity. MD stated that he would like to see

the site to determine if wetlands were altered. MD suggested that since a Notice of Intent was being submitted for work at the rifle range and club house, that this after-the-fact activity should be rolled into that Notice of Intent. MD explained that the wetland would have to be flagged and the Commission would have to determine if any restorative action would need to be performed. LD noted that she did not witness any siltation of this stream but the stream bank would need to be revegetated. Mr. Madonia discussed proposed work at the rifle range.

Mr. Madonia noted that over the years Wallace Pond was filling in with sediment and asked whether the pond could be dredged. MD explained that this was a natural process and suggested they file for a permit to perform chemical treatment or drawdown if there was a weed issue due to the arduous permitting process required of dredging projects.

Work associated with the Club House alterations was discussed. Mr. Hoyt explained that they were creating a handicapped parking area and replacing the ramp in the rear of the club house, outside the buffer zone. A grease trap for the kitchen was being installed underground. The roof was being replaced as well as interior renovations. An underground electrical line was also proposed. Since the Sportsman's Club was hoping to start on this work in the immediate future, the Commission determined that a Determination of Negligible Impact was sufficient if the electrical lines were installed overhead instead of underground. A Determination of Negligible Impact would be submitted and acted on at the June 28th Meeting.

- LC disseminated a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Meisner's attorney to the Town Administrator regarding proposed work at 100 Main Street, for their records.
- LC discussed a recent violation at 35 Bank Avenue, specifically clearing within a wetland and buffer zone and disseminated a violation letter she sent to 35 Bank Avenue regarding this matter.
- LC informed the Commission that Lower Naukeag Lake would be performing their chemical treatment on June 29th and noted that the newsletter indicated that the drawdown would be performed on October 1st: a matter to be determined during the amendment process. LC notified the Commission that she has submitted all requested documentation to Town Counsel as requested.
- LC informed the Commission that she has submitted her letter of resignation to the Town Administrator. There was much discussion.

LD: Motion to adjourn

CP: Seconded the Motion

Motion carried unanimously 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Lori Capone, Conservation Agent