

Minutes of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission
October 11, 2011

Present: MD: Marshall Dennis, Chairman

CP: Christopher Picone

AA: Alana Archangelo

6:35 PM MD opened the meeting of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission under the MA Wetland Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and in accordance with the Ashburnham Protection Bylaw and associated Rules and Regulations

6:36PM MD opened discussion regarding Request for Determination of Applicability for **Mary Soeldner** of **21 Island Road** for the upgrade and repair of an on-site sewage disposal system within the 100 foot buffer to Lower Naukeag Lake. **Michelle Deline of Deline Engineers** was present to represent Ms. Soeldner. MD and the Conservation Agent, Laura DiNardo visited the site today and saw that everything seemed to be in order.

MD- Motion to accept a Negative Determination of Applicability as proposed per plan and discussion.

CP- Seconded

Unanimously passed 3-0

6:45PM MD reopened the Request for Determination of Applicability for the construction on a bulk salt storage shed behind the facilities building within the 100 foot wetland buffer zone at **Cushing Academy, 78 Central Street**. This discussion was continued from September 26, 2011. **Mark Harasimowicz** was present to represent Cushing Academy. After a visit from the Commission and the Conservation Agent on September 13, 2011, Cushing Academy agreed to move the chain link fence as to enclose the proposed shed and place a silt fence by the culvert in a trapezoid configuration to reduce the risk of spilled salt or displaced soil being discharged into the culvert, which has become viable wetland habitat. The shed will be fitted with a secure roof. Cushing's request to clean the swale from the existing storage shed to route 101 was approved.

MD- Motion to accept the RDA as per plan and discussion on site and at the Conservation Commission meetings.

CP- Seconded

Unanimously passed 3-0

Other Business

6:53 PM **Jamie Rheault, of Whitman and Bingham**, was in attendance to represent the **Meisners, of 100 Main Street** for a Pre- Notice of Intent discussion regarding a solution to the ongoing problem of flooding of their home and property. Mr. Rheault suggested a cooperative approach be taken to address this situation by both the Meisners and the Town of Ashburnham. He showed a plan that had several different stages of alteration to

the property, including plans for a future addition to the home. This addition would be in the wetland. He reassured the commission these plans were adaptable. He discussed plans to redesign catch basins, maintain the dam that hasn't been properly maintained in many years, and to construct a berm to divert sheet flow from their property during "100 year storms". Andrew Leonard, from Ashby, would be redesigning the altered wetland ("landscaping" it). Mr. Rheault stated that there would be a temporary alteration of 6000 square feet of wetland, and permanent alteration of 2500 square feet of wetland. He expressed a hope to make the Notice of Intent consist of a few different projects instead of one large one. He mentioned wanting to clean out two intermittent streams that seasonally fill with silt. There was discussion as to where that silt originated and whether that would be a feasible expectation. Mr. Rheault also requested that the Commission waive the Bylaw Fee for the project as the Town may be one of the applicants. MD suggested that Jamie stake out the area before it snows- and that the arc of disturbance on the plans be straightened out, there by minimizing impacts to wetlands.

7:40 PM The Commission signed the Determination of Applicability for 78 Central Street for Cushing Academy with attached conditions for the installation of a salt shed.

The Commission signed the Determination of Applicability for 21 Island Road for the septic system installation.

MD proposed the possibility of having the Conservation Agent or Chairperson be granted the authority to approve DNI's instead of having it come to a vote. The matter will be addressed at a future meeting.

MD showed the Commission a letter drafted by the Conservation Agent on October 11, 2011 regarding a Wetland Violation at 179 Russell Hill Road to Ms. Harding.

7:53 PM AA- Motion to adjourn
CP- Seconded
Unanimously passed 3-0

Respectfully submitted by Alana Archangelo, Conservation Commission Member
November 14, 2011