

Minutes of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission
March 14, 2011

Present: MD: Marshall Dennis, Chairman CP: Christopher Picone
 AA: Alana Archangelo

7:30 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.

7:31 PM MD reopened the Public Hearing on the Notice of Intent filed by **Susan Blouin of 30 Stodge Drive** for the demolition of an existing house and the construction of a new house with an attached garage, as well as the installation of a septic system, drilled well, and improvements to the existing driveway, portions of which will be in the 100 foot buffer zone of bordering vegetated wetland and Stodge Meadow Pond. This Hearing was continued from February 28, 2011. Chris Mossman (CM) of Trowbridge Engineering was present as a representative for Ms. Blouin. MD and AA visited the site with CM on March 4.

For inclusion in the Orders of Conditions, pre-construction reviews were discussed. The first review pertained to the cutting trees in order to get equipment to the site, and demolish and remove the existing cottage. The second Commission review pertained to erosion controls to be installed following tree clearing, while the third review pertained to a Vista Pruning Plan to enhance the owner's view of the lake.

MD reviewed with CM the requirement that the tree clearing area must be flagged and approved by the Conservation Commission prior to any cutting. MD also stated that the Commission would need to inspect erosion controls and approve the foundation location as staked under the supervision a registered Professional Engineer or a Registered Professional Land Surveyor prior to installation to insure that it complies with the approved plan. CP reminded CM that a double silt fence would be required along the steep embankment in the front of the new house. CM instead suggested the installation of a silt fence supported by steel mesh, which the Commission verbally approved.

MD- Motion to close the Hearing
CP- Seconded the Motion
Motion carried unanimously 3-0

MD- Motion to issue an Order of Conditions, per pan and discussion
CP- Seconded the Motion
Motion carried unanimously 3-0

7:45 PM MD opened the Public Hearing on the Notice of Intent filed by **Mary Gagnon on behalf of JR Briggs Elementary School, 96 Williams Road**, for the construction of an observation platform adjacent to and cantilevered over an isolated vegetated wetland/Certified Vernal Pool (CVP). Mary Gagnon was present as well as Wendy Gleason, an abutter. After the review of plans, MD strongly recommended that no fill material be placed in the CVP since this action would trigger project review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and would greatly delay project implementation. In lieu of fill, MD suggested that pilings/posts be used to support the deck. MD further recommended that silt fencing be installed along the CVP while the observation deck was being constructed and post holes were being dug. Securing the fencing by weighing it down with timbers instead of burying it was discussed. Once the holes are dug, the fencing can be removed and the deck installed on the posts.

It was also suggested that a lip be added to the sides of the observation platform in addition to the front, to prevent students from inadvertently falling in to the pool. MG stated she would like the construction to be completed by June 2011. The abutter, WG, had concerns over privacy and wondered if the installation of the deck would cause increased traffic to the area (school field trips from other towns, etc.). Ms. Gagnon reassured her that that would not be the case.

CP- Motion made to close the Hearing
MD- Seconded the Motion
Motion carried unanimously 3-0

CP- Motion to accept NOI per plan and discussion
MD- Seconded the Motion
Motion carried unanimously 3-0

Other Business:

The Commission discussed changing the meeting time from 7:30 PM to 6:30 PM beginning March 28.

The Commission discussed the feasibility of hiring a part time Conservation Agent to reduce the Chair's time commitments performing Commission duties and responsibilities. MD stated he would inform the Town Administrator of this request.

8:27 PM CP- Motion to adjourn
MD- Seconded the Motion
Motion carried unanimously 3-0

Respectfully submitted by Alana Archangelo, Member
March 28, 2011