

Minutes of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission

May 14, 2012

Present: MD: Marshall Dennis, Chairman

CP: Christopher Picone

6:30 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.

- The meeting was conducted by Rules of Necessity due to attendance by only two commissioners.

Request for Certificate of Compliance – San-Ken Homes Inc c/o Kenneth A Lehtonen, River Styx Road (Map 34, Parcel 18A & 18B).

This Certificate was held up in the past because the wetland area had not been replicated according to the approved plan. One of the owners of the common driveway now wishes to purchase the adjacent lot shared by that driveway, and then merge the two lots into one. That is why the Certificate is being requested now.

The Commission conducted a site visit for the original request some time ago and had required a better attempt at wetland replication. However, after some discussion at the May 14, 2012 meeting, it was decided that the extensive ledge would make that full replication impractical. The tiny replication area has not established wetland plants, and it was an “experiment” that is unlikely to become a wetland. However, that depression does catch some runoff from severe storms and snowmelt, and so it may be the best the site can provide.

MD. Motion to issue Certificate of Compliance.

CP: Seconded.

Passed 2-0

Ashburnham Conservation Trust and Nashua River Watershed Association, Gary Howland

Bush Hill Forestry. Gary is scheduled to meet with the Select Board on May 21 to discuss forest cutting on Bush Hill. We also need to find out the economic threshold for which a RFP is required. If we exceed that threshold, we cannot simply hire Kurt Leslie as a forester without a

RFP. The forester will mark the property lines, make a forest cutting plan, and mark the trees (trunks and roots) to be cut.

After some searching, MD found the original large map from the CR, showing “meets and bounds” on Bush Hill. That will enable a forester to properly mark the property lines, as should have been done when the CR was originally purchased. Laura will make 2 copies of the large map.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update. If Ashburnham’s population had 81 fewer people, the Town would have been eligible for OSRP funding. Despite that obstacle, Gary was informed that Melissa Cryan from DCS would likely be able to sit down with the Commission and Gary and go over the OSRP this summer.

Willard Road Property. The deadline for purchasing the CR was extended to the end of May. The stumping of the field is not finished due to rain. Other minor legal issues are also slowing the sale, such as hunting permissions.

Beaver issues. Gary, MD, and CP will meet with Doug Briggs at 9:30, May 15 to discuss the potential installation of beaver diverters on Bush Hill Rd., and possibly Tuckerman Rd. Mike Callahan from Beaver Solutions has agreed to examine the site(s) for a small fee.

Quarterly Con Comm Breakfasts. CP has attended the two meetings held earlier this year. The Ashburnham Con Comm is sponsoring the next meeting, late in June at Monty Tech. We need to choose a date and a topic for local Cons Comms to discuss. CP will distribute a list of topics from an earlier meeting, and then we can decide. CP will take care of ordering food from Monty Tech’s cafeteria staff.

7:18 PM MD- Motion to adjourn

CP- Seconded

Passed 2-0

Respectfully submitted by Chris Picone, Member