

Minutes of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission
September 24, 2013

Present: MD: Marshall Dennis, Chairman
CP Christopher Picone

Absent: AA Alana Archangelo
AH Andrew Henderson

6:25 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 Wetlands Protection Bylaw and associated Rules and Regulations.

Other Business

Bush Hill Forestry – Informational meeting with Chuck Caron (Caron Environmental) regarding forest management plan for Bush Hill.

Guests: Chuck Caron, as well as Gary Howland (ACT)

The group discussed what work would be required. Stand 12 would be cut according to the Management Plan. The fields (Stands 16, 17) would be reworked so a brush hog could get through and maintain them as fields. The old orchards in Stand 15 would be restored. This potentially would require a temporary wetland crossing from the Tuckerman access. Property markers (flagging/paint) would only be needed on Stand 12, as necessary, since the other property lines have either been marked or will be not be included in this cut and can wait. Finally, a forest cutting plan will be required, along with a Public Forum Meeting on site. The offsite/Town Hall public forum could be conducted without a forester present, thus precluding the need for the Commission to pay for professional services.

A Forest Stewardship plan and new Management Plan will be needed in 2016, but will not be part of this initial project.

Mr. Caron noted that the guideline for “no crossings if wetlands found” for Stand 12 will be difficult and may prevent some foresters from bidding.

6:50 PM

MD opened the Public Hearing/Informational Meeting for Bill Hackler, 29 Hay Road (Map 66, Parcel 2): Notice of Intent for the installation of a “Tight Tank”, abandonment of the existing septic system and associated grading within 100 feet of Stodge Meadow Pond. The applicant’s representative (Christopher Knuth) was in attendance, as were abutters Michelle and Gary Kerins.

This project is anticipated to reduce nutrient input to the pond, as the tight tank will replace a cesspool through which groundwater flows prior to discharging to the pond. The cesspool will be pumped, limed and filled. The tank and work are no closer than 56’ to the lake. A large “cedar” will be cut by the house, 60-70’ from the water.

This project has been approved by the BOH. The State DEP requested a metal manhole cover on the tank.

Due to a lack of a quorum, all parties agreed to a special meeting on October 2nd to review the project and make a decision regarding the application, hopefully with a quorum of the Commission present.

MD moved to continue the Hearing to October 2nd
CP seconded.
Approved 2-0 (absent a quorum)

7:30 PM

MD Motion to Adjourn
CP Seconded
Unanimously passed, 2-0 (absent a quorum)

Respectfully submitted by Chris Picone, ACC Member