

**Minutes of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission**  
**October 15, 2013**

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

Absent: AH: Andrew Henderson

**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.

**Other business**

Briggs Elementary School – CP brought to the Commission’s attention erosion problems at the Briggs site. Site visits were made on October 10, 2013 by Conservation Agent, Rich Turcotte and Chairman MD. The contractors were given directions to correct the problems. As of 1:45 pm on Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup>, significant progress had been made in correcting the problem by installing matting on the slopes, check dams and straw wattles. A brief report on the progress was submitted by the Agent.

The Commission reviewed a bid received for the Cutting Plan for Bush Hill from Richard Valcourt, Sr. and Richard Valcourt, Jr. dba “Green” Natural Resource Management.

The Commission received a Volunteer Application from Karen Lorden of Winding Cove Road, expressing an interest in becoming a member of the Conservation Commission.

The Commission received a Cutting Plan for Robert Alario for a property on Rt. 101 (Ashby Rd.). Commission’s only suggestion was to install staggered water bars or ensure skid path does not become a water channel perhaps by creating a zig-zag path.

**6:45 PM**

MD opened the Public Meeting for a Request For Determination of Applicability for 11 Watatic Pond Road for the replacement of a septic tank and installation of a sub-surface system and associated grading. The applicant is Renee Plant (not present) and was represented by Kevin Horgan of Graz Engineering. The work would be within the Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The owner rents out the property year round.

A gap in the erosion control barrier occurs in the area of the existing driveway. Mr. Horgan believes the work in that area, including the backfilling of the trench and patching the pavement should be done in one day. Straw bales would be placed across the driveway as a temporary barrier until the work is completed. Additional bales will be on site in case the work takes longer than expected.

MD: Motion to close the Hearing  
CP: Second  
Unanimously Passed 3-0

MD: Motion to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability that the project will not alter the Resource Area. CP: Second. Unanimously Passed 3-0

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**Other Business – Guests and Visitors**

Matt Titus of 53 Central St. was present and requested information regarding the installation of a dog fence in the backyard of his home. His concern was the location of wetlands near his property, in particular a drainage channel along the old railroad bed at the rear of his property. He would like to install a chain-link fence which would require pounding in posts. He wants to insure that he is not in a wetland area or in violation of State/municipal wetland regulations.

MD stated he was involved in the delineation of that wetland along the railroad bed prior to being a member of the Commission and had knowledge of the area, and could provide Mr. Titus with a plan from 2007 showing him the location of the wetlands. The plan would still be valid under the Permit Extension Act.

The Commission believed that a plan showing the proposed fence with measurements could be covered under a Determination of Negligible Impact and suggested Mr. Titus submit a plan for review.

7:30 PM MD- Motion to adjourn  
CP- Seconded  
Unanimously Passed 3-0

Respectfully submitted by  
Richard Turcotte, Conservation Agent