

**Minutes of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission
February 11, 2014**

Present: MD: Marshall Dennis, Chairman
CP Christopher Picone

Absent: AA Alana Archangelo
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 Wetlands Protection Bylaw and associated Rules and Regulations.

Conservation Restriction for Kirby Property: Janet Morrison from North County Land Trust (NCLT) discussed a Conservation Restriction Application for a property on Wilker and Byfield Roads. NCLT will hold the CR. The Commission provided a letter of support to the EOEEA, and MD & CP signed the CR application form. MD will ask AA to stop by Town Hall and sign the form so we have a majority on the form.

6:45 PM

Request For Determination – West Shore Drive (Map 45, Parcel 49 & 50). No one was in attendance to represent the applicant. Without a quorum, the Hearing was not opened. The Hearing will commence at the next meeting (Feb 25).

Gary Howland from Ashburnham Conservation Trust came to discuss **forestry on the Bush Hill property**. We have received bids from three foresters, though one recently backed out. One bid was based on a fee per board feet or per cord, and the other was a flat fee for the project. CP calculated that both estimates would be around the same cost if the harvest is on the low end, so the flat fee may be a smart choice. That also reduces the incentive to harvest more than necessary. The Commission decided which forester will get the offer, provided that 1) The forester will meet with the Commission to finalize the contract, and 2) Full payment will not be required from the Commission until an equivalent amount (or higher) has been received from the sale of the wood. MD will contact the forester with the winning bid.

No vote on meeting minutes was made due to the lack of a quorum.

Other Business.

OSRP: The North County Land Trust and the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership each have an Americorps/MassLIFT member who would be interested in helping to finalize our OSRP. We had three meetings last year with an ad-hoc OSRP group with input from the ACT, Conservation Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission. That group has since disbanded but the OSRP should not need much more to finish. We will also need one public hearing with an “executive summary” or similar.

7:25 Adjourn

Respectively submitted by Chris Picone, Commission Member