

Minutes of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission
March 11, 2014

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

Absent: AH Andrew Henderson

6:41 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

CP reported on his walk through of the Thoma Property for the Conservation Restriction Annual Report. Charles Caron has submitted a cutting plan as part of the long term forest management of the property and it has been approved by the State Forester. CP will obtain the property owner's signature on the completed form so that it can be filed with Mike Fleming of the Department of Conservation & Recreation.

6:51 PM

Notice of Intent, 11 Brogan Lane (Map 1, Parcel 9), DEP File # 092-0893: The applicants, Mike & Karen Martin, were present. The proposed work consists of the rehabilitation of an existing house with the addition of a deck as well as a new septic system within the Buffer Zone of Lake Wampanoag. The site is also within Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife and Priority Habitat of a Rare Species. A separate filing has been made to the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP). Consequently, the issuance of an OOC will be delayed until a NHESP issues a Negative Determination of Impact or the prescribed time period for NHESP review/response has elapsed (i.e. on March 25th).

At 6:57 PM Chris Mossman of Trowbridge Engineering arrived and presented the plan to the Commission. Board of Health approval has been given for the septic system and erosion controls (silt-fence) will be installed as per plan before work will begin.

MD - moved to close the hearing.

CP – seconded the motion.

Approved 3-0 (Unanimously)

MD - moved to issue an Order of Conditions pending approval from the NHESP

CP – seconded the motion

Approved 3-0 (Unanimously)

7:03 PM

Notice of Intent (Continued), 257 Ashby Road (Camp Winnekeag), (Map 31, Parcel 29 & 29A) DEP File # 092-0892: For the construction of a driveway and pedestrian bridge crossing a tributary to Winnekeag Lake. The project would result in 930 sq. ft. of disturbance to wetlands with 1,395 sq. ft. of replication. The Riverfront Area (RFA) impacts would consist of 24,000 sq. ft., which was assumed by the Commission to be less than 10% of the total RFA onsite.

Wesley Flis from Whitman & Bingham Assoc. was present and represented the applicant. Jeff Linthwaite from Camp Winnekeag, as well as an abutter Richard Hyland were present, as well.

Additional information was presented to the Commission including a letter from the Fire Chief stating that, in his opinion, a bridge would provide increased protection to the neighborhood and be an evacuation route for the Winnecowett neighborhood and the campers. He would also like to have a fire hydrant installed west of the proposed bridge. Further, a list of perceived benefits of a bridge, DEP Data Forms on the Wetland Delineation and a Wetland Replication Plan prepared by Matt Marro were submitted to the Commission.

MD questioned if there was an island in the middle of the bridge crossing. Mr. Linthwaite responded that there is a wetland that collects water on one side. They want to fill that area and replicate. MD asked if they could extend the bridge or make two bridges in order to avoid filling. CP then asked if a concrete box culvert (bottomless) could be utilized instead of the filling. Mr. Flis stated it would require a 35 to 40 foot wide culvert.

MD questioned the need for a bridge at the present time, and that consideration should be given to the timing of future development on the parcel west of proposed stream crossing. He also was concerned that the extent of bridge-related impacts to wetlands may outweigh the currently anticipated need to access applicant-owned properties west of the stream, particularly since these properties also can be accessed by driving around the lake without impacting wetlands. MD further noted the difficulty in evaluating the proposal due the extent of snow cover.

CP asked about the timing of the project. He would like to see the replication site and the proposed impact area. He also asked about the cross section of a second bridge and potential options to replace the proposed 24" pipe at the initial wetland crossing, i.e. a structure that would be conducive to wildlife passage and, coincidentally, minimize the wetland impacts.

MD moved to continue the hearing to 6:45 PM, 25 March 2014, with the applicants consent, in order to see if the sufficient snow melts to better view the site.

CP seconded.

Approved 3-0 (Unanimously)

Other Business (None)

8:01 PM

CP moved to adjourn the meeting.

MD seconded.

Approved 3-0 (Unanimously)

Respectfully submitted by Richard Turcotte, Conservation Agent