

**Minutes of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission**  
**March 25, 2014**

Present: MD: Marshall Dennis, Chairman

Absent: AH Andrew Henderson

CP: Christopher Picone

AA: Alana Archangelo (arrive 7:00)

**6:45 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.

**Notice of Intent (continued) – 257 Ashby Road (Camp Winnekeag) (Map 31, Parcel 29 & 29A):** The applicant is proposing a driveway/pedestrian bridge crossing of a tributary stream to Lake Winnekeag. The proposed work, in part, is located in Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW), Riverfront Area (RFA) and in the Buffer Zone of a BVW.

On Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, MD visited the site with the applicant and their representatives (CP also visited the site the following day). At the group meeting, it was determined that the original wetland flags were inaccurately placed. With the revised wetland boundaries (now on the revised plans), the aerial extent of the wetland to be filled is reduced from 930 ft<sup>2</sup> to 390 ft<sup>2</sup>. Due to this reduction, the wetland replacement area consisting of mature upland forest, located between the easterly wetland and the stream to be bridged, was eliminated. Regardless, the remaining site for compensatory mitigation, located along the edge of the existing detention basin, is still 1.5 times the area lost due to filling. These plan revisions will result in far less disturbance than that proposed in the original plans.

In addition, a raised 12” drain pipe within the easterly wetland to be filled will be sufficient to maintain flow under the proposed driveway. By elevating the pipe’s invert, it will ensure the existing wetland and compensatory wetland up-gradient of the driveway will exhibit hydrologic conditions sufficient to sustain wetland conditions.

Minor changes remain for the plans, such as converting the openness ratio to meters, and reviewing all four plans to make sure the agreed changes are updated in each (driveway details, etc.)

In consideration to abutters who were present at previous hearings, the proposed driveway does not appear to present any increase in traffic to Winnecowet Drive. On the contrary, there is anticipated to be less traffic on that private road once the Camp can access their property directly from their driveway/bridge.

The applicant was informed that for activities in the Riverfront Area (RFA), the State wetland regulations allow, at the discretion of a Conservation Commission, for the disturbance of up to 5000 ft<sup>2</sup> or 10% of the RFA on a single lot, whichever is greater. The proposed bridge project involves four (4) lots, all owned by the same owner. Based on the information provided by the Applicant at the public hearing, however, only two (2) of the lots appear to contain RFA, i.e. Map

31/Lot 12 and Map 31/Lot 6. As such, since the RFA 10% rule applies to each lot, work within the RFA on one or more lots may already be approaching the maximum allowed disturbance. Consequently, with respect to future development on RFA lots, the Commission recommended that the Applicant calculate the RFA on each affected lot, as well as the associated RFA impacts, if any, on each lot containing RFA. The Commission further advised that the existing RFA impact on the lots affected by the subject bridge project were to be added to any RFA impacts resulting from future development, such that future activities were in compliance with the RFA disturbance thresholds.

MD stated that erosion controls will be required between the bridge abutments and the stream and that these controls were to be added to the project plans. MD also noted the revised plans do not appear to meet the Stream Crossing Standards and that if this inference was incorrect, a cross section of the bridge should be provided that clearly indicates compliance in this regard.

The OoC will stipulate monitoring/stormwater reports per State standards.

No hydrant, as suggested by the Fire Department, will be included in this plan or project. However, a proposed hydrant could be considered under a separate application. Presently, there is not sufficient information to include a hydrant in the current NOI/OOC.

MD moved to close the Hearing  
AA seconded  
Approved 3-0 (Unanimously)

MD move to issue and Order of Conditions approving the project per plan and discussion of revised plans  
AA second  
Approved 3-0 (Unanimously)

**7:25 PM**  
**Other Business**

George Cornwall came to discuss future work at the Naukeag Lake Club, Packard Hill Rd.

The Club is proposing the planting of a Japanese Zerkova (non-native) tree within 100 feet of the pond this spring. Based on follow-up discussions regarding tree placement and planting procedures, the Commission agreed that the filing of a Determination of Negligible Impact (DNI) would be sufficient. Silt fencing will be sufficient during planting.

Mr. Cornwall also inquired as to the status of the existing OoC relative to pond drawdowns. The Commission responded that, in light of the 2012 Permit Extension Act, the drawdown permit was valid into 2019. In response, Mr. Cornwall indicated that, this year, the Club plans to commence the drawdown on April 15, with one board to be removed per day until April 25. The Commission requested to be notified once the area is drained in late April so members could view the site.

Further, Mr. Cornwall stated that UMass had a data logger monitoring water flow just downstream from their dam. The Commission agreed to look into this matter.

The Commission then discussed a possible future project to increase the beach area on the SW side of the club. Such action would require clearing a small patch of forest, dredging a portion of pond sediment and replacing the sediment with fresh sand. The Commission advised Mr. Cornwall that a project of this magnitude would require the preparation/filing of an NOI.

**8:05**

MD moved to adjourn

AA seconded

Approved 3-0 (Unanimously)

Respectively submitted by Chris Picone, Commission Member