

**Minutes of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission
September 30, 2014**

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

Absent: AH Andrew Henderson

6:40 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.

CP reported on his attendance at the MACC Fall Conference, the focus of the conference was on invasive plant control. Discussion was held on the pros and cons of using herbicides for the control of aquatic invasive vegetation, with the suggestion that herbicides should not be considered a long term fix in NOI filings.

6:45 PM

Request For Determination of Applicability, Route 12 (Fitchburg Road): RDA filed by MassDOT District 3 for the repair of drainage structures in the area of Factory Village Pond. William Clougherty was present to represent the State. They would like to repair a cross culvert, replace a culvert located on the north side, and repair a manhole and basin on the south side of Route 12. This would require road excavation, as well as excavations adjacent to the road in order to establish proper elevations to facilitate drainage. A high groundwater table also may require the installation of a sub-drain by the north side culvert. Mr. Clougherty stated that MassDOT would like to begin the work soon, i.e. before the winter weather. The estimated time to complete the work is less than one (1) week.

MD moved to close the hearing.
CP seconded.
Approved 3-0, unanimously.

MD moved to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability #3, that the work is within a Buffer Zone but will not alter an area subject to protection.
CP seconded.
Approved 3-0, unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Requests For Certificate Of Compliance;

130 Russell Hill Road; The Commission decided to table this Request for a future date since, although the lawn has been seeded and grass is visible, it has not become well established throughout the site.

232 Stowell Road: Conservation Agent Richard Turcotte has visited the site and reported that everything appears to be in order and the vegetation is well established.

MD moved to issue a COC for 232 Stowell Road.

CP seconded.

Approved 3-0, unanimously.

62 Winding Cove Road: Conservation Agent Richard Turcotte had previously visited the site and recommended work be done to remove some silt-fence, smooth out some slope areas and add some stone to a swale. After a recent visit he reported that everything appears to be in order and the vegetation is well established.

MD moved to issue a COC for 62 Winding Cove Road.

CP seconded.

Approved 3-0, unanimously.

96 Williams Road, J.R. Briggs Elementary School: On September 24th, MD met on site with Darren Peeler (Consigli), Dr. Hicks (AWRSD) and the landscaping sub-contractor. At that time it was determined that some sediment controls (hay-bales and wattles) needed to be removed or broken up and dispersed. Also, some areas along the swale parallel to Williams Road needed to be raked and seeded.

MD moved to issue a COC for 96 Williams Road, Briggs Elementary School with Ongoing Conditions for the maintenance of the stormwater chamber system.

CP seconded.

Approved 3-0, unanimously.

Bush Hill Project

MD and Gary Howland met with Rich Valcourt Jr. to review the plan for the forest harvest and identify a staging area. Mr. Valcourt stated that he would like to get started as soon as possible. They drove the Tuckerman Road area and discussed the possibility of bringing back the apple orchard in that area.

Open Space & Recreation Plan

There isn't any new information or updates on the OSRP. It was suggested that if there isn't anything new within six months, The State Division of Conservation Services would be contacted.

7:20 PM

MD moved to adjourn the meeting.

CP seconded.

Approved 3-0, unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Turcotte, Conservation Agent