

Minutes of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission
May 11, 2015

Present: MD: Marshall Dennis
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 Wetlands Protection Bylaw and associated Rules and Regulations.

6:37 PM Lots 1 & 2 Wilker Rd. (Continued from April 13 Meeting)

Notice Of Intent, Lot 1 Wilker Rd (Map 39, part of Lot 15) For the construction of a single family home within the Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

Notice Of Intent, Lot 2 Wilker Rd (Map 39, part of Lot 15) For the construction of a single family home within the Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland as well as a driveway crossing of a wetland. The proposed driveway follows a current cart path that was used to access test pits. Questions on the possible Vernal Pool and impacts to it were asked.

The Commission visit to the site resulted in the observation of Vernal Pool species (Spotted Salamanders, Wood Frogs, Caddis Fly larvae). MD will submit a request for certification with the State.

Chris MacKenzie from Whitman & Bingham was present to represent the applicants. He presented the Commission with a plan that showed the lots in relation to each other. Lot 1 is in the front with a small part of the lot in the Buffer Zone.

Lot 2 has a wetland crossing and is behind Lot 1, two 18" pipes are proposed in order to allow flow thru the crossing. 1 to 1 replication is proposed on the plan.

MD observed that once the salamanders hatched they would likely head towards Lot 2 which is more forested. His concern is if Lot 2 has too much area dedicated for lawn instead of forested it may impact the path to and from the Vernal Pool.

MD would like to see a limit to the disturbance near the well, silt-fence may need to be placed closer to the house, tuck sediment controls closer to the 50' Buffer Zone. In addition it may be necessary to have an ongoing condition with reference to the need for no further development beyond the area of the well.

MD - Moved to continue the hearing for Lots 1 & 2 Wilker Rd. to June 8, 2015.

CP – Seconded the motion.

Voted unanimously 3 – 0.

6:57 PM **Notice OF Intent, 20 Murray Rd. (Map , Parcel)** The applicants Louis & Ruth Cormier were present. The applicants propose to upgrade an existing subsurface waste disposal system. The old system will be pumped out and filled in and a new leach field will be installed.

MD - Moved to close the hearing for 20 Murray Rd.

CP – Seconded the motion.

Voted unanimously 3 – 0.

MD - Moved to issue an Order of Conditions to allow the proposed work per the plans & discussion.

CP – Seconded the motion.

Voted unanimously 3 – 0.

7:05 PM **Notice Of Intent for Ecological Restoration Limited Project,** filed by Aquatic Control Technology for Lower Naukeag Lake Association.

Dominic Meringolo was present for Aquatic Control Technology and Steve Slocum & Tom Smolinsky were present for Lower Naukeag Lake Assoc..

Drawdown of the lake is the focus of the plan not herbicide application.

It is felt that a drawdown would work well to control Milfoil and nuisance plants and minimize herbicide applications.

It is proposed that a drawdown would take place on Oct 1, taking a couple of weeks to complete. Early to the middle of March would see the replacement of the boards at the dam with a goal of April 1 for full condition.

MD stated he would not have a problem with an October 1 drawdown.

CP stated that Mark Stintson (DEP Circuit Rider) had a recommendation that a database “Matrix” be created with data on years with herbicide application, years with drawdowns, and success in controlling nuisance weeds. That way the applicants have a sense of which practices may impact different species of weeds, and it can help develop a long-term plan. As stated repeatedly at a fall MACC conference on this topic, chemical controls were designed for acute problems but were not meant for long-term management.

Steve Slocum wants to make sure this request is for 5 years. Mr. Meringolo will E-mail the Commission making sure the request is for 5 years. The chemical permit expires in 2018.

MD - Moved to close the hearing for Lower Naukeag Ecological Restoration

CP – Seconded the motion.

Voted unanimously 3 – 0.

MD - Moved to issue an Order of Conditions for 5 years that would allow a Lower Naukeag Lake drawdown as per the plan and discussion.

CP – Seconded the motion.

Voted unanimously 3 – 0.

7:10 PM Other Business

There appears to be a discrepancy on the expiration date for the OOC for Herbicide Application for Lake Watatic. Page one shows the expiration date is in December of 2010 with a three year extension issued that brought it to the year 2014. The Permit Extension Act would then bring it to the year 2017. (The Cover Letter is correct, permit extension date is wrong.)

Little Watatic Pond appears to have the same problem.

MD - Moved to acknowledge the discrepancy on the Cover Letters and OOC extensions.

CP – Seconded the motion.

Voted unanimously 3 – 0.

MD - Moved to issue a letter addressing the problem to Domenic Meringolo of Aquatic Control Technology.

CP – Seconded the motion.

Voted unanimously 3 – 0.

Crosby Road Land Acquisition

Gary Howland and Scott Bennett representing the Ashburnham Conservation Trust (ACT) met with the Commission regarding the donation of a parcel of land on Crosby Rd. which abuts the Russell Hill Conservation property.

They have received estimates from Zock Surveying (\$4,100) and Ed Boucher (\$1,700) for surveying work in preparation of the land transfer.

The Commission expressed their interest in the Boucher estimate.

Deb Philips would handle the legal requirements for sub-dividing the existing lot.

Bush Hill

On Saturday MD and ACT made a site walk and came back with some suggestion.

A gate is needed to block vehicle access. An estimate quote for a double swinging gate form Amburgey was \$2980. DCR pays \$1500 for a single gate. It is felt that it needs to be a double because of the width of the road. Three keys would be needed, one for Tom Porter who has an easement, one for the Conservation Office and one for Gary Howland.

MD - Moved to expend up to \$3,000 for the fabrication of a double swing gate at the entrance of the Bush Hill Property on Tuckerman Road, per the quote from S M Amburgey of Ashburnham. This would be expended from the Commissions, Wetland Conservation Fund.

CP – Seconded the motion.

Voted unanimously 3 – 0.

Gary Howland said that Mr. Feen has been asking that the trail be moved from near his house, there is another stone wall near there.

If Mr. Porter and Mr. Feen could flag where they felt the trail could be moved and would be willing to do the work clearing it (cutting but not removing trees) the Commission would entertain the idea.

Also Mr. Porter would like to install a split rail fence on the road to deter hikers from trespassing on his property.

An old engine block on the trail could be removed. Mr. Porter has the equipment to remove it.

The cutters suggested removing the woody debris and sowing seed (grass and/or wildflowers) to maintain a field. A York rake would be adequate for the job. It was suggested that Jim Fimerau may have the equipment needed.

The big pine trees in the Apple Orchard could be cut with chainsaws. Is there a liability issue, why didn't the Valcourt's let the Commission know if they could or couldn't do it? MD will look into the field restoration costs.

OSRP

Steve Bennett offered to help with the finalization of the OSRP.

Certificate Of Completion

The Commission was contacted by a realtor concerning a COC for 110 West Shore Dr. the work was for the installation of a sub-surface waste disposal system, a closing is scheduled for May 29.

MD - Moved to issue a COC for 110 West Shore Dr. contingent upon an inspection by the Commission showing that the work is satisfactory and the site is stabilized.

CP – Seconded the motion.

Voted unanimously 3 – 0.

8:20 PM

The Commission will not hold a meeting on the fourth Monday of the month, Memorial Day, May 25th .

MD Motioned to adjourn the meeting.

CP seconded the Motion.

Approved 3-0, unanimously.