

**MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Monday July 11, 2016**  
**6:30 P.M.**

**Town Hall – Lower Level Meeting Room**

Present: MD: Marshall Dennis  
CP: Christopher Picone  
LC Linda Couture  
AH: Andrew Henderson

**6:35 PM: Agenda Review/General Discussion**

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.

**Public Meetings/Hearings:**

None scheduled.

**Guest & Visitors**

Tyler Spencer, a resident of Ashburnham, attended to learn more about the Commission and consider joining. *[Rich: please include Tyler in future e-mails of agendas and minutes: Tyler Spencer [tspencer335@gmail.com](mailto:tspencer335@gmail.com)]*

Gary Howland represented the Ashburnham Conservation Trust concerning several items:

**1. Bush Hill Stewardship**

Jen Jones of F&W (and Ashburnham resident) informed Gary that state grant money is still available for forestry. The land would have to be monitored annually. Other parts of Bush Hill are currently monitored as part of former Forest Legacy grants, but not the parcel that was logged. Gary asks that Rich take a look at Bush Hill and see if we could apply. The state could pay half of the costs of the restoration after logging last year.

The goal would be to brush cut every 2 years. Rich Wright of Timberlost Farm estimated a cost of \$12-15 thousand to prepare the deep ruts left from the previous forestry (winter 2015?). That \$12-15 K would be half of what was earned on the cutting in the first place. Mowing should cost around \$500 every two years.

In addition, Bush Hill will need a forest stewardship plan **this year (2016)**. We need a forester, and cost would be approx. \$5000. That plan would last for another 10 years, as the last one was done in 2006. The forester who made the last plan has now retired, so we will look into Bay State and someone LC knows when she was on the Ashby Con Comm.

## **2. Conservation opportunity on Willard Rd.**

Sallie Thoma wants to sell parcel#4 on Willard Rd. The Town has it valued at \$3000/acre, she wants \$1500/acre for 50 acres, for total of \$75,000. Gary notes there is sufficient funds in the Town's Conservation Fund. The property would add to a large protected tract that is mostly CR land now.

Earlier, MD went through every annual report and checked into how much money is available. But it is still not clear, and the Town is earning interest now on money in conservation accounts. MD asked LC to investigate how much money is available in each of these accounts.

3. Gary asked about creating a "**Contaminated soil by-law**" so that companies cannot import contaminated soil. MD asked Gary to see if he can find a sample by-law for us to read.

### **Other Commission Business/Administration:**

MD, LC and CP signed sexual harassment forms. AH still need to get a copy.

Request For Certificate Of Compliance.

MD motioned to issue a COC for 120 Sherbert Rd. File # 092-361.

LC Seconded the Motion.

Approved 4-0, unanimously.

Ratification of an Enforcement Order on 37 Spruce Dr. for the construction of a concrete retaining wall and patio area. The work is almost done, but no permit was filed. Rich T. issued a Cease and Desist order and required erosion controls to be installed.

MD motioned to issue an Enforcement Order for 37 Spruce Dr. that will include penalty fees under the Town by-law.

LC Seconded the Motion.

Approved 4-0, unanimously.

MD is editing the minutes for the meeting of June 22<sup>nd</sup> and will submit edits to the Commission.

CP will not be able to attend the next meeting, Mon. July 25.

### **7: 30 PM**

MD motioned to adjourn.

LC Seconded the Motion.

Approved 4-0, unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 7:30 PM