

MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Monday November 14, 2016
6:30 P.M.

Town Hall – Lower Level Meeting Room

Present: MD: Marshall Dennis
CP: Christopher Picone
LC: Linda Couture

Absent: AH: Andrew Henderson

6:30 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.

6:35 PM – Request For Determination (Continued) – Page Ave. Page Beach Improvement Society (Map 52).

The proposed work consists of repair of stone retaining wall and cement stairs as well as replacing a paved walkway with pavers. The work is located within the Buffer Zone for Lower Naukeag Lake.

Hearing was re-opened from previous meeting. LC and CP conducted a site visit on October 29 after our last meeting. The applicants discussed plans to first replace concrete stairs, and then later they would add infiltration in the center of the lane leading to the stairs/beach. The 6' wide infiltration would be made of stone blocks filled with gravel. The applicant had stated that the retaining wall would not be removed. We had discussed a gradual slope to the beach.

At this meeting (Nov. 14), no one was present to represent the applicant. The revised application includes plans to replace the stairs with stone landings, and stair detail cross sections seem sufficient.

However the original RDA mentioned plans to repair the stone wall, and that plan proposes 95 ft of pavers, which are different from the infiltration stonework we discussed at the site visit. In the revised plan there is no mention of the asphalt work that we discussed to improve infiltration down center of the lane..

MD motioned for a Determination of Applicability, negative #2. **This RDA is limited to reconstruction of the stairs from the beach to the path.** This application does not apply to the replacement of the asphalt path or fixing the stone wall, as those were not described in the revised application.

LC seconded.
Vote 3:0 in favor.

6:55 PM –Notice Of Intent – 11 Meadow Lane (Map 67 Parcel 29 & 30). The applicants, Richard & Kathleen Leslie are proposing the construction of an upgraded sewage system for a single family home. The work is located within the Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland (Stodge Meadow Pond).

Attended by: Neil Gorman, DE. Ross Associates, and Rick Leslie.

New 1500 tank, 1000 gall pump chamber. Presby leaching system. Slightly raised system for leach field.

Erosion controls are on plans, with a filter sock/waddle. The Commission requested the filter sock/waddle be at least **6 in diameter**.

MD motioned to close the public Hearing for 11 Meadow Lane.

LC seconded.

Approved 3:0.

MD motioned to issue an Order of Conditions and approve the project per plan and discussion.

LC seconded.

Approved 3:0.

7:04 PM –Notice Of Intent – 139 Russell Hill Rd. (Map 39 Parcel 1). The applicant, Michael Gesner is proposing the installation of a new well and septic system for a single family home. The work is located within the Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and Riverfront Area of Brown Brook.

Represented by Chris Mossman.

New 1500 tank, 1000 gall pump chamber. Presby leaching system.

MD conducted a site visit with Chris Mossman to review the wetland boundaries.

Plans show a small access road to be added by the house, to allow the trucks to get to the new well. They will likely use “loam tailings” (2 inch stone) to fill that access area. After they are done it will be seeded to regrow.

MD motioned to close the public Hearing for 139 Russell Hill Rd.

LC seconded.

Approved 3:0.

MD motioned to issue an Order of Conditions and approve the project per plan and discussion.

LC seconded.

Approved 3:0.

Guest & Visitors

Gary Howland (ACT) and Mike Barry (Bay State Foresters). Forest Management Plan is due this year. Stewardship Plan might be appropriate, but would cost 15-20% more

compared to a Management Plan. Forest Legacy now requires a Stewardship plan. Goals for stewardship include biodiversity conservation and scenic beauty for trails.

The estimate for Bay State would cost \$6500 for a Stewardship Plan. We agreed to go forward with \$5000 for the plan, and submit the final \$1500 once the state approves.

MD motioned to accept the proposal for a Stewardship Plan for Bush Hill Town Forest.
LD seconded.
Approved 3:0

Other Commission Business/Administration:

Approved the Minutes for the meeting of October 24, 2016, with MD edits.

Reviewed Forest Cutting Plan for parcel located on Bush Hill Rd..

Discussed membership request for Connecticut River watershed Council. We reached a consensus not to join.

Reviewed an offer of land donation for a parcel located on Lake Shore Drive, Map 56, Parcel 12. No action until we get further information on ownership of the adjacent parcel. Is that adjacent parcel Conservation land, or generally Town land?

Discussed a possible violation on Lake Rd. Rich will be asked to investigate.

7:50 PM

MD motioned to adjourn.
LC Seconded the Motion.
Approved 3-0, unanimously.