

Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 * 978-772-8249 * 978-772-8208 (fax)
Minutes for **4/23/2015** – Approved 5/14/2015

Location: Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor

Members present: Bill Daniels (BD, Chair), George Bacon (GB, Vice-Chair), Takashi Tada (TT),
Jessica Gugino (JG, Clerk)

Not present: Lee Curtis (LC), Vacancy: CA, Conservation Administrator

APAC taped: Yes

7:12 PM – Open Meeting

- **Confirmation of the Agenda**

- Catagna Spagna asked to continue its Public Hearing to 5/14/15.
- An interview with a applicant for the CA position was added.
- TT moved to confirm the agenda as amended; JG 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

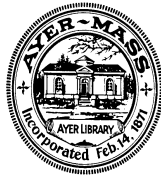
- TT moved to accept the minutes for 4/9/15 as written; JG 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- TT moved to accept the minutes for 4/13/15 as written; JG 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.

- **Announcements**

- Both National Grid and Pan Am Railways have notified ConCom of their upcoming plans for vegetation management/herbicide treatments along their utility routes.

- **Public Hearing (cont'd.): NOI – 141 Snake Hill Road, Christopher J. Valentine (MassDEP # 100-0381)**

- Meagan Valentine was present.
- A site walk was conducted by ConCom on 4/11/2015.
- Ms. Valentine provided ConCom with copies of the revised site plan prepared by Landtech Consultants, of Westford.
 - The revised plan identifies two large trees to be removed, the planned location of a soil storage pile, and a storage area for the temporary relocation of the deck.
 - Ms. Valentine indicated that, because of possible code issues, the deck might instead be abandoned.
 - ConCom members advised consulting with Building Inspector Gabe Vellante before making that decision.
 - Impervious surface calculations were also provided.
- A draft OOC was reviewed.
- GB moved to approve and issue an OOC for 100-0381; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- The Public Hearing will be closed on 5/14/15 after Mr. Valentine and Landtech review the draft OOC.
 - BD reminded Ms. Valentine that ConCom will need a copy of the proof of recording of the OOC at the Registry.
- GB moved to continue the Public Hearing to 5/14/15; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.

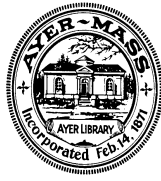


Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 * 978-772-8249 * 978-772-8208 (fax)
Minutes for 4/23/2015 – Approved 5/14/2015

- **Public Hearing (cont'd.): NOI – Ayer Department of Public Works (DPW), Stony Brook Pump Station (MassDEP # 100-0382)**
 - DPW Superintendent Mark Wetzel was present.
 - A site walk was conducted by ConCom on 4/11/15.
 - Earlier in the week Mr. Wetzel submitted the paperwork for MESA review, as required by NHESP.
 - The OOC cannot be issued until after this is complete.
 - BD noted that, from the site walk, the entire site had been shifted to get a distance of 15 feet from the railroad track and that this had been indicated by a note on the submitted plan.
 - BD asked Mr. Wetzel to email ConCom with a copy of a stamped plan.
 - Mr. Wetzel said that any excess fill material will be hauled off the site during construction.
 - Conditions for a draft OOC were reviewed and Mr. Wetzel will be emailed a copy for review.
 - GB moved to continue the Public Hearing to 5/14/15; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.

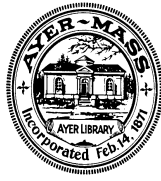
- **Discussion: Additional DPW issues**
 - Pingry Hill
 - Mr. Wetzel had talked previously to former CA Becky DaSilva-Conde about whether ConCom could give approval for the removal of haybales and silt fencing along a portion of Rte. 2A/Littleton road, prior to the issuance of a COC.
 - Mr. Wetzel indicated that the soil slopes in the area are now stabilized.
 - The presence of the erosion controls has caused problems with DPW mowing and brush-cutting along the roadway.
 - BD said this provided an opportunity for ConCom and the DPW to work together.
 - ConCom could consider sending a letter to Pingry Hill developer Rick Roper mentioning this as well as some other related issues concerning the development.
 - BD mentioned in particular previous complaints from Rosalie Bucci, of 8 Hickory Way, at the corner of Hickory Way and Rte. 2A.
 - Ms. Bucci's property contains an easement for access to drainage structures.
 - In the past, workers for the developer have entered her property/the easement without prior notification, caused some property damage, and been rude to Ms. Bucci when questioned.
 - BD said ConCom had advised Ms. Bucci to contact Mr. Roper and the DPW in writing to request advance notice of planned work and that people who enter the easement on her property be respectful of the condition of her yard.
 - Mr. Wetzel said that as of Fall Town Meeting 2014, Hickory Way and related easements have now been accepted by the Town, and that the contractor the Town employs for future catchbasin cleaning will be very respectful.
 - Victor Drive
 - The culvert replacement work is now complete, with final paving having been done the previous week.



Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 * 978-772-8249 * 978-772-8208 (fax)
Minutes for **4/23/2015** – Approved 5/14/2015

- Seed is now down and once the grass has grown in and the soils stabilized, Mr. Wetzel will contact ConCom for an inspection.
- Beaver dam off Rosewood Avenue
 - Mr. Wetzel has been in contact with Mike Callahan, of Beaver Solutions, about the installation of a beaver deceiver to reduce flooding issues in this area.
 - Prior to installation of the flow control device, the water level will need to be lowered in order to gain access to a manhole that is approximately 3 ft. underwater.
 - Mr. Wetzel said they would attempt to drop the water level 4 ft. if possible.
 - ConCom will need to issue an Emergency Certification for this work, but it can only do so after the Board of Health has issued its own Emergency Certification.
- **Public Hearing (cont'd.): NOI – JAR Realty, for Catagna Spagna Corp., 1 Nemco Way (MassDEP # 100-0383)**
 - GB moved to continue the Public Hearing to 5/14/15, as per the applicant's email request; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Discussion: 187 Old Farm Way, Jean and Michael Anuta (MassDEP # 100-0337)**
 - In a letter dated 4/17/15 and cc'd to ConCom, Marielle Stone, Deputy Regional Director of MassDEP's Bureau of Water Resources, Central Region, has given MassDEP's best recommendation to the Anuta's regarding their objection to ConCom's re-issuance of a previously-unrecorded OOC for their property.
 - Mr. Anuta asked to postpone their discussion with ConCom until 5/14 to give them time to digest MassDEP's suggested course of action.
- **Conservation Administrator Job Interview**
 - Danielle Mucciarone was interviewed for the CA vacancy.
 - Following the interview, ConCom members agreed to schedule an additional special meeting on Wednesday, 5/6, to review the status of applications and see if a consensus has been reached.
- **Office Updates**
 - 8 Amandrey Way
 - New owner James Avery has contacted ConCom with questions about how to go about performing work in his backyard.
 - Mr. Avery has mentioned adding dirt to level off part of the backyard up to the flagging line on the original plan, and possibly constructing a retaining wall at this border.
 - Prior to purchase, Mr. Avery previously met with former CA DaSilva-Conde who said at the time that he would need to do an NOI and work with a wetland scientist.
 - BD said ConCom will need to see an actual plan depicting the topography before it can comment further.
 - 3 Pheasant Circle
 - Tanya White-Salters called asking for advice about the removal of weakened or downed trees in her backyard and on abutting land.
 - BD will swing by on Saturday morning, 4/25, to take a look.



Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 * 978-772-8249 * 978-772-8208 (fax)
Minutes for **4/23/2015** – Approved 5/14/2015

- **Member Updates**

- GB noted that Spring Town Meeting will commence on 5/11, prior to ConCom's next meeting.
 - Since ConCom's line item in the budget shows the third largest increase, someone from ConCom will need to be there to speak eloquently to this.
 - ConCom members were in unanimous opinion that Chairman Daniels possesses all the right verbal skills for this task.
- TT recently attended a Keystone training workshop on woodland forest management held at U.Mass.
 - The topic of the Ch. 61 tax program came up, with recommendations on how to improve communications, etc. that might be useful to the Town.
 - TT also said the topic of sustainable foresting was discussed as a means of both improving the overall health of a parcel of land and generating a source of revenue that could be used to contribute to land purchases and other programs.

- **9:55 PM – Adjourn Meeting**

- GB moved to adjourn; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.