

Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 * 978-772-8249 * 978-772-8208 (fax)
Minutes for **6/25/2015** – Approved 7/9/2015

Location: Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor

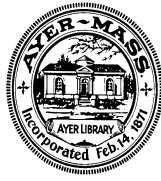
Members present: Bill Daniels (BD, Chair), George Bacon (GB, Vice-Chair), Takashi Tada (TT),
Jessica Gugino (JG, Clerk), Conservation Administrator Michele Grenier (CA)

Not present: Lee Curtis (LC)

APAC taped: Yes

7:15 PM – Open Meeting

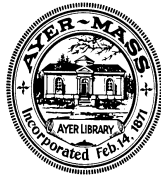
- **Confirmation of Agenda**
 - GB moved to confirm the agenda as posted; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Welcome to new Conservation Administrator Michele Grenier**
 - The ordering of a name plate and business cards was discussed.
- **Meeting Minutes Approval**
 - GB moved to accept the minutes for 6/11/2015 as written; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Discussion: Request for Partial Certificate of Compliance (COC): 10 Longview, The Willows, MassDEP # 100-0288**
 - A request was received from Attorney Christine Morgan on behalf of the current owner of 10 Longview, Gina Lyons.
 - Ms. Lyons is selling her unit with a closing scheduled for 6/29.
 - The buyer's attorney is asking for a COC
 - JG and CA performed a site visit on 6/23 and confirmed that work on this area of the subdivision has been completed for a number of years.
 - GB moved to issue a Partial COC; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously and the COC was signed.
- **Discussion: Review of draft reports for Comprehensive Survey of Ayer Ponds**
 - Also present for discussion and review were Chuck Miller and Marina Giovannini of the Pond & Dam Committee.
 - Two draft reports submitted recently were reviewed:
 - Ayer Ponds Watershed Investigation Results (June 10, 2015)
 - Section 2: Aquatic Vegetation Surveys (June 19, 2015)
 - ConCom plans to hold a joint meeting in July with Robert Hartzel, of Geosyntec, and members of the Pond & Dam Committee to discuss the drafts.
 - Mr. Miller and Ms. Giovannini said the current version of management recommendations is too “nebulous” and “nonspecific.”
 - Mr. Miller added that what he was looking for was a report with sufficient information to enable the Conservation Commission and the Pond & Dam Committee to collectively submit a detailed and proactive management plan to the Board of Selectmen so that a consistent operating budget and management strategy can be implemented by the Town.



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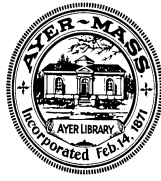
- The Scope of Work, as detailed in Geosyntec’s “Biological Survey, Assessment and Management Recommendations for Ayer’s Ponds” proposal (final revision October 21, 2013) was reviewed concurrently with discussion of the current drafts as submitted.
 - The signed contract, dated July 25, 2014, which references this proposal, was also reviewed.
 - Task 1: Baseline Water Quality and Aquatic Vegetation Sampling
 - 1.1 Aquatic Vegetation Surveys
 - The submitted draft was regarded as fundamentally on track to completion.
 - 1.2 Water Quality Sampling
 - A draft report on this for review is either pending or missing.
 - Task 2: Pollutant Loading Analysis
 - 2.1 Pollutant Source Assessment
 - The submitted draft for this, including BMPs for stormwater improvements around the ponds, was examined.
 - JG said an email from DPW Superintendent Mark Wetzel indicated he was extremely pleased with this portion of the report and looked forward to including it in the DPW Capital Plan.
 - While the BMP recommendations looked good, the draft is missing information promised in the proposal, including “relevant considerations such as permitting issues [and] land ownership/easement issues.”
 - 2.2 Land Use Assessment/Phosphorous Loading Budget and Model
 - Detailed information on land use assessment and watershed delineation was not included in the draft material.
 - Context for understanding phosphorus loading numbers needs to be included.
 - An in-lake model, i.e. Vollenweider model, has not yet been provided.
 - Task 3: Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan
 - As mentioned above, this section requires further work and detail.
 - Task 4: Grove Pond – Secondary Contact Recreation Risk Evaluation
 - Reviewed previously in fall 2014.
- BD concluded that, based on the Geosyntec Proposal’s Scope of Work, the drafts submitted account for around 50% of the work to be done.
 - While pleased with much of the material, BD and Mr. Miller agreed that it still wasn’t enough for ConCom and Pond & Dam to use in creating a management plan proposal for submission to the Town.
 - BD will email Bob Hartzel to ask if the missing material will be ready for review at a meeting with Geosyntec on 7/9 or of ConCom should postpone this to its 7/ 23 meeting instead.
- **CA Updates**
 - Elizabeth Estates
 - CA met with Bob Prescott earlier in the day and did an erosion control inspection for new work planned on Norwood Avenue under the project OOC.
 - BD and GB reviewed the history of this project for CA.
 - Ayer Rod & Gun Club



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- CA received an NOI submission from the Gun Club for construction of a 333 sq. ft. addition.
 - This will be scheduled for ConCom's 7/9 meeting.
- **Accounts Payable**
 - MACC Dues: \$265.00
 - BD questioned whether this included membership for the CA.
 - CA thought it did.
 - GB moved to approve payment of \$265 to MACC; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
 - Staples: \$2.00
 - GB moved to approve payment of \$2.00 for office supplies; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Resignation of Lee Curtis from the Commission**
 - An official letter resigning from the Commission was sent by LC earlier in the day to the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen.
 - Ms. Curtis has expressed an interest in contributing occasionally to the Commission's needs as an Associate Member.
 - GB recalled that this designation was questioned in the past by Town Counsel.
 - BD suggested the language of 'unpaid consultant' might be viable.
- **Committee Updates**
 - The Open Space & Recreation Plan Update Committee
 - This Committee met on 6/22.
 - JG said ConCom has been asked to assess its portion of Town properties for ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance and to make recommendations.
 - TT said that, while ConCom might be able to assist in an audit, it could not make recommendations.
 - The making of recommendations for ADA compliance was not properly up to able-bodied people to decide.
 - TT said there might also be liability issues involved, especially if the Town were to do this wrong.
 - JG will contact Town Administrator Pontbriand, who is presumed to be the Town's ADA Coordinator, for advice on how this portion of the OSRP should be completed.
 - BD suggested a joint meeting with the OSRP Committee at some point to discuss goals and objectives for the final report, especially given the overlap with ConCom.
 - JG said OSRP has asked if ConCom could contact MACC to see if MACC has resources to offer legal assistance to the Town regarding the ongoing Ch. 61 issues over proposed developments on Nashua and Pleasant streets.
 - CA will contact some people she knows at MACC.
- **Member Updates**



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- JG said that the new owner, A. J. Bergen, of the property permitted for development under the name “Kohler Place” contacted ConCom about his intention to begin installing erosion controls for inspection on 6/22.
 - Mr. Bergen was told to contact ConCom when the controls were ready for inspection.
 - To date, JG has not seen any activity indicating that the installation of erosion controls has begun.

- **Citizen Concerns**
 - Mike Anuta, of 187 Old Farm Way at Pingry Hill, described the recent influx of up to 2 inches of sediment in front of his house as a result of the previous weekend’s unusually heavy rains.
 - Mr. Anuta contacted the DPW which came and cleaned up the area.
 - Much of this sediment, which also left a lot of straw material in nearby sewer grates, is coming from open /active construction activity nearby for the continuing expansion of the Pingry Hill subdivision by Crabtree Development.
 - CA will contact Desheng Wang about this.
 - Dr. Wang is the State-mandated erosion control expert now working with Crabtree Development.

- **9:15 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
 - GB moved to adjourn; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.