

## **Town of Ayer Conservation Commission**

Town Hall \* One Main Street \* Ayer, MA 01432 \* 978-772-8249 \* 978-772-8208 (fax)

Minutes for 4/11/13 – Not Approved

Location: Town Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

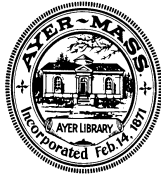
Members present: Bill Daniels (BD, Chair), George Bacon (GB, Vice-Chair), Takashi Tada (TT, Acting Clerk), Lee Curtis (LC), Becky DaSilva-Conde (CA, Conservation Administrator)

Not present: Jess Gugino (JG, Clerk)

APAC taped: Yes

### **7:15 PM – Open Meeting**

- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Agenda**
  - Discussion on RFQ for comprehensive pond weed study – moved to the end.
  - GB moved to approve agenda as amended; LC seconded.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Public Hearing: NOI – 1 Barnum Road**
  - Applicant: Prit Patel, Trustee, Barnum Road Realty Trust
  - Representative: Robert Oliva, David E. Ross Associates
  - BD summarized the site walk that took place on 4/13/13.
  - GB moved to approve NOI and issue OOC; LC seconded.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
  - GB moved to continue public hearing to 4/25/13; LC seconded.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
  - Mr. Patel asked about the possibility of adding a handicap access ramp on the north side of the building (same side as the work proposed in NOI).
  - BD recommended revising the plan to show the outline of the maximum sized ramp for the building (4' wide).
    - The revised plan will be included in the forthcoming OOC as an addendum.
  - Mr. Patel said he would have Mr. Oliva revise the plan and email it to CA.
- **Discussion: Autumn Ridge CR Monitoring**
  - Steve Smith presented the 2013 Autumn Ridge CR Monitoring Report, as conducted by Mr. Smith and residents of Autumn Ridge Farm condos.
  - The loam pile area near the development entrance is now fully restored with native grass.
  - The squatter camps that were found on Porcupine Hill and near the Observation Point appear to be abandoned. Some junk from the Porcupine Hill camp remains on adjacent property (Eliades).
  - The upper beaver dam, on Rock Meadow Pond, appears to be fully rebuilt after the breach in June 2011. There is plenty of beaver activity in and around the ponds.
  - There appears to be one osprey nest, but the heron rookery is no more.
  - Ownership rights of the condos are now in residents' hands.
  - The turtle nesting area has not been completed by the developer.
    - Mr. Smith asked if it is possible for ConCom to “pressure” the developer into completing this work.

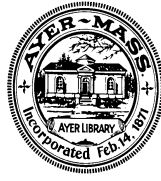


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- CA said she would ask the Building Inspector about withholding any future occupancy permits until the turtle nesting area is completed.
- The new Deer Run Trail was completed near the top of Porcupine Hill in 2012.
  
- **Discussion: Pine Meadow Conservation Area – Trails Map**
  - Steve Smith mentioned that a friend in Westford offered to prepare a new map of the conservation trails, *pro bono*.
  - The estimated cost of printing up the color maps is \$290 for 500 maps.
  - Mr. Smith asked if ConCom would be willing to pay for the printing.
  
- **Discussion: Revival of Ayer Greenway Committee**
  - Steve Smith expressed a desire to lead the revival of the Ayer Greenway Committee.
  - Mr. Smith's main priorities are trail maintenance and improved maps/signage, including installation of the kiosk at Pine Meadow Pond trailhead.
  - The kiosk components are being stored in GB's garage; it is ready to be assembled.
  - BD promised to bring donuts for the kiosk installation.
  - Kiosk content?
  
- **Payables**
  - Lowell Sun: \$59.07 for legal notice, 1 Barnum Road NOI
    - Check payment received from applicant
    - GB moved to approve payment of invoice; LC seconded.
      - Motion approved unanimously.
  
- **CA Updates**
  - DPW: Mark Wetzel is preparing two NOI applications.
  - DPW: Mr. Wetzel is also organizing a stormwater committee.
    - Committee will consist of Mr. Wetzel; 1 ConCom representative; 1 business community representative; and 2 residents.
    - Goal is to kickstart the stormwater utility fund.
    - LC eagerly volunteered to represent ConCom on the stormwater committee.
  - Flannagan Pond weed treatment
    - CA provided copy of most recent contract to Town Administrator as a basis for this year's contract with ACT.
  - Tree clearing along Sandy Pond – possible violations
    - Two separate residences east of Town Beach have cut trees.
  - Pingry Hill: Site Walk scheduled this Saturday at 9:00 AM; meet on Hickory Way.
  - Pine Meadow Conservation Area
    - There is a report of debris behind Pine Ridge Drive, possibly on Town land.
  
- **Member Updates**
  - GB: Disposition of structures on former Tooker property?
    - No word from Town Administrator.
  - GB: Erosion controls along commuter rail are in poor condition



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- Located beyond Willow Road.
  - LC: Is working on securing the services of a student volunteer from Essex Agricultural High School for conducting environmental science projects.
  - LC: Is reviewing a summary of proposed revisions to the state wetlands regulations.
  - LC: Offered to arrange for a colleague to attend a meeting to discuss climate change adaptation.
- **Discussion: RFQ for Comprehensive Pond Weed Study**
    - Postponed due to absence of JG.
- **9:15 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
    - GB moved to adjourn; TT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
      - Motion approved unanimously.