

## **Town of Ayer Conservation Commission**

Town Hall \* One Main Street \* Ayer, MA 01432 \* 978-772-8249 \* 978-772-8208 (fax)  
Minutes for 5/24/12 – Approved 6/28/12

Location: Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor

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

APAC taped: Yes

Not present:

### **7:40 PM – Open Meeting**

- **Meeting Minutes Approval**

- GB moved to accept the minutes for 5/10/12 as corrected; TT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Motion approved 3-0; BD abstained.
- GB moved to accept the minutes for 5/17/12 (Joint meeting of ConCom and Pond & Dam Committee) as written; TT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Motion approved unanimously.
  - TT will circulate copies of these minutes at the next meeting of the Pond & Dam Committee.

- **Confirmation of Agenda**

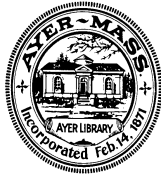
- A few items were removed from the agenda.
- GB moved to accept the agenda as amended; TT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Motion approved unanimously.

- **Public Meeting: Requests for Certificates of Compliance – Pingry Hill/Ridge View Heights**

- 33 Deer Run (Lot 86) (DEP # 100-0261)
  - CA reported the backyard has been cleaned up, brush pile removed, and drain pipe cut off as requested.
  - Developer Rick Roper, Crabtree Development, has also replaced haybales around the nearby detention basin.
  - GB moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance (COC); TT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
- 56 Fox Run Drive (Lot 111) (DEP # 100-0266)
  - CA reported site visit showed everything to be acceptable.
  - GB moved to issue a COC; TT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
- 26 Fox Run Drive (Lot 113) (DEP 100-0265).
  - CA reported discarded Christmas trees remain at the back of this lot, now on Town property, despite requests for this to be cleaned up.
  - CA will contact Rick Roper as to why the COC will not be issued at this time.

- **Discussion: Long-term Beaver Management**

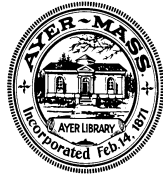
- Discussion continued on different spots in Town that require attention re beaver activity.
- State law regarding beaver dams was reviewed.



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- Beaver dams may not be tampered with without permission from the State (Mass Fish & Wildlife).
- Beaver-damming of manmade culverts is an exception.
- The culvert on Shaker Road was discussed as a potential site for a beaver deceiver.
  - The DPW has to clean beaver build-up from this culvert every few days to prevent water backing up and flooding the basement/furnace of a nearby resident.
  - CA said this culvert needs to be addressed because the DPW risks doing more damage to the resource area by frequent cleaning of the culvert.
  - The culvert itself also needs to be repaired/replaced, but DPW will not do this until fall when water levels in the perennial stream are lower.
  - BD said it was best to wait to install a beaver deceiver until after the culvert has been fixed.
  - CA said work in this area is complicated by its being on a National Grid easement.
    - BD said this road has always been a problem and wondered if it was worth it to the Town to maintain the culvert.
    - CA said the culvert is there because of the National Grid easement, not the road itself.
    - CA also said it benefits the Town to have a culvert there as it allows the Town to manage the beaver activity in this area.
      - Without the culvert, beaver damming here would be protected, and this in turn could lead to a potential blocking of Bennetts Brook.
  - BD will contact DPW Superintendent Mark Wetzel to find out who he has talked to at National Grid, and also why it is the Town that cleans the culvert on their easement.
- **Discussion: CA maternity leave/ interviewing applicants for temporary CA position**
  - CA has received 2 resumes thus far.
    - The deadline for applications ends 5/25.
  - CA will set up interviews for the following week, 5/30 and/or 5/31.
- **CA Updates**
  - Beaver dam tampering near Pine Meadow Conservation Land
    - CA received an update from Doug Jasperson of DPW.
    - The state sign prohibiting tampering has been posted, but he's received news from an anonymous resident that the tampering has continued.
      - More branches have been pulled from the dam and added to the nearby pile.
    - Mr. Jasperson spoke to Police Chief Murray about this.
      - Currently all police surveillance cameras are in use but this will hopefully change soon.
      - Chief Murray told Mr. Jasperson that he would also attempt to contact someone higher up in the Environmental Police to get more attention.
  - Route 2A catchbasins



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- At CA's request, Mr. Jasperson contacted someone he knows at Mass Highway regarding State catchbasins which are not being cleaned out regularly, if at all.
  - This is in the vicinity of 66 Littleton Road/2A.
    - The road is being undermined, which in turn threatens adjacent wetland resources.
  - Mr. Jasperson's contact said he would go through his chain of command to have the catchbasins put on a priority list.
  
- **Member Updates**
  - TT has reviewed the proposed plans for sedimentation removal and remediation at Plow Shop Pond.
    - This proposal falls under the jurisdiction of the Devens Enterprise Commission, not Ayer ConCom.
    - The public comment period ends 6/18/12.
    - TT said PACE (People of Ayer Concerned about the Environment) has been kept notified.
  - TT passed on information to a potential candidate for the ConCom Commissioner vacancy.
  - This person is an Ayer resident and a professional wetland scientist.
  
- **9:45 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
  - GB moved to adjourn; TT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.