

MEETING MINUTES

Barrington Conservation Commission

February 4, 7:00 PM

Barrington Elementary School Library, Rte 125

PRESENT: John Wallace, Chair
Pam Failing, Vice-chair
Marika Wilde
Anne Melvin
Ken Grossman
Susan Gaudiello, Selectmen representative
Alison Desmarais, Alternate
Dan Ayer, Alternate

ABSENT: Peter Sandin, Alternate
Glenn Gould, Alternate

CALL TO ORDER

Barrington Conservation Commission (BCC) Chair John Wallace called the meeting of February 4, 2016 to order at 7:00.

DELEGATION OF VOTING MEMBERS Chair John Wallace confirmed the presence of members as above.

- 1) Sightings reported were of a bald eagle, a sharp shinned-hawk, deer, turkeys, and ice flows in the Isinglass. Pam noted that ticks are out.

Guests: Chris Berry, Berry Survey: Lombardo request for Variance on setback to Mendums Pond Mr. Berry presented the plans for reconstruction of two retaining walls, expansion of a patio area, and the addition of two side decks to the existing house. The variance requested is for the front and side decks and the location of the retaining walls as these impacts are within the 75' setback to Mendums Pond. Mr. Berry noted that the proposed changes bring the construction of the retaining wall approximately 1.6 feet closer to the lake. This will allow for the structure of the house to be bolstered. The extended patio, made with porous pavers, would replace impervious surfaces and should result in less runoff into the lake. The group recommended that there be standard deck spacing to allow drainage. Mr. Berry noted that stone underlay would be used and the state does not consider this impervious.

Susan Gaudiello made motion to support the project with the recommendation that maximum deck spacing be used. Ken Grossman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of six (6) to zero (0) in favor. John will write a note of support to the ZBA with this recommendation.

- 2) Approval of minutes of Jan 21 **Susan Gaudiello made a motion to approve the minutes of January 21 as amended. Pam Failing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of six (6) to zero (0) in favor.**
- 3) Complaints: none
- 4) Old Business
 - a) Conservation Projects:
 - i) Barr property, 58 acres, Seavey Bridge Rd: now on market
 - b) Calef Isinglass River Preserve
 - i) Parking area & improvement to Town Farm Road for access to Calef Preserve. Update? The group reviewed the specs Pam shared and discussed options for the parking area. John wondered if it would be possible to plow snow onto the easement. It was decided to present to the Selectmen a plan to go to bid that shows one parking lot and road work for the last 200' of road meeting the parking area. The BCC has committed to spending up to \$15,000 for the project and has a preliminary estimate of \$13,000. The consensus was that if the town would like additional work done it can be added to the specs and the town can pay the difference. Pam will put this in a memo to John Scruton and Peter Cook.
 - c) Planning Board:
 - i) 17-lot conservation subdivision on Tolend Rd. (Chestnut Forest): dispensation of open space: recommendation from site walk of 1/14. Alison's proposal for permitted uses on town-owned conservation areas ([see below](#)) would apply to the open space in Chestnut Forest should it be accepted by the town. There will be future discussion about how this open space will be covered i.e. town owned and deed restricted or conservation easement.
 - d) Easement "monitoring" by public (Ken) The group reviewed the list of conservation properties that are open to the public. Ken will further revise and edit the proposal for informal public monitoring of these properties and then present it for final approval of the BCC.
 - e) Calef property: what do we want to allow? (Alison and Pam)
Alison's final proposal for permitted uses on the town-owned conservation areas (SATWaSR, Goodwill Conservation Area, Calef Preserve, Town Forest, and Kids of the River, Cullen Woods Open Space) received commendation from the BCC. Alison will put it in a memo and send it to John Scruton for review and approval of the Selectmen.
 - f) Goals for 2016
 - i) Calef 'roll-out' to public, trail work, restoration, etc.
 - ii) Conservation plan:

- iii) Management plans for town properties
 - iv) Turtle crossings Pam will forward the listing of the town turtle crossings to Alison and she will contact the person at Fish and Game about putting up signs. Susan suggested contacting Amy at the library to possibly set up a turtle presentation for the public.
 - v) Establish a program for “People’s Easement Monitoring” Ken is finalizing this.
 - vi) Put on program(s) for education about wetlands
 - vii) Other???
- 5) New Business:
- a) Request to use of Kids of the River Land for Storywalk Children’s librarian Wendi will meet with the trails committee to do more planning for a Storywalk.
 - b) Great Thicket NWR proposal. Of use to us?
 - c) Display for voting day? Marika will provide map stickers so that people can indicate wildlife sightings on the map.
 - d) Planning Board:
 - i) Wetlands buffer impact request: Atkins Dan reported that Berry Surveying took the recommendations of the BCC and incorporated them into the plans. The plans were approved by the PB.
 - e) ZBA
 - i) Churchill, request for variance on setback to Swain’s Lake
The BCC reviewed the plans for additions to the house, the construction of a one car garage, and the installation of a septic system. Pam mentioned that the applicant is making a reasonable request. **Susan Gaudiello made a motion for John to write a memo of support for the application as it appears that efforts have been made to minimize the impacts to the lake and the shoreline, and the proposed changes are reasonable. Ken Grossman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of six (6) to zero (0) in favor.** John will write the memo.
 - ii) Lombardo, request for variance on setback to Mendums Pond This was covered above.
 - f) Dredge and Fill applications
 - g) Treasurer's report (Pam)
 - h) Legislative updates (Ken) Ken will research the bill David Watters has on wildlife corridors.
- 6) Announcements/correspondence:
- a) DES:
- 7) Other committees: Trails Committee, IRLAC, ORLAC
- 8) Easements:
- 9) Next scheduled meeting: February 18

Items remaining on agenda, but not expected to be discussed at this meeting:

- a) Conservation Projects:
 - i) Renna & Leahy properties: placing easement on this (and Leahy) will require town vote – selectmen have approved.
 - ii) Stonehouse Forest
 - iii) Cook property
 - iv) Cullen Woods property – town has taken title to open space
 - v) Wilson property for sale (on Mendums, abuts Jeffrey and Brookwood Shores)

Susan Gaudiello made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25. Alison Desmarais seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of six (6) to zero (0) in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Lenzi

NOTE: THESE ARE SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES ONLY. A COMPLETE COPY OF THE MEETING AUDIO IS AVAILABLE AT THE LAND USE DEPARTMENT.