

Bolton Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
October 18, 2005

PRESENT: Ed Englemann, Sarah Greenough, Amy Wilson, and administrator Carol Gumbart.
(NO QUORUM)

1. Upcoming Meetings/Correspondence Carol Gumbart said that she has received a request from Craig Martin, the engineer working with the Sunset Ridge Housing Corporation, to meet with the Commission at our next meeting. The members agreed to provide them time on the next agenda.

Ms. Gumbart reminded the Commission of the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting the next evening on the Riverside Comprehensive Permit Application. Ed Englemann and Amy Wilson said that they were available to attend the meeting.

Ms. Gumbart said that she received a phone call from a Wilder Road resident asking if the Commission could assist her and her neighbors in determining whether certain trails have easements and may be cut or whether they are trails that new owners can block from passage. Ms. Gumbart said that the caller, Carol Airey, also said that the dam at Wilder Pond appears to be blocked and that none of the water is existing the pond through the emergency spill way. The members agreed that Ms. Gumbart should contact Commissioner Karen Augustine to see if any of the trail committee members know the trails in that area. Ms. Gumbart suggested that the Commission should conduct a site visit to the dam and will make arrangements via email.

2. Main Street Beaver Flooding Progress Report Pat Bensetler, Tim Fiehler (Bolton Historic Society) and Martha Remington (Bolton Historic Commission) were present by appointment to discuss the beaver flooding area between Main Street and Mechanic Street. Ms. Bensetler said that this summer 3 beavers were taken from the area and that volunteers have worked to clear a flow path in the two beaver dams. Ms. Bensetler said that they have removed 50% of the first dam and 50 % or more of the second dam. Ms. Bensetler reviewed the layout of the stream, associated wetlands, dam locations and historic bridge structures. Ms. Bensetler said that the brook is back to its original boundary. Ms. Bensetler said that they want to perform more research on the historic aspect of this area and have an appointment with a state archeologist, Maryanne McClean next week, October 25, 2005, at 11 a.m. Ms. Bensetler said that this area might be a prehistoric settlement.

Carol Gumbart asked whether the maintenance of the fence behind the Historic Society building was a problem and whether it would be helpful to remove it at this stage. Mr. Fiehler said that it does need some maintenance but it is not a problem to keep it in place at least until spring. Ms. Bensetler said that she wants to remove the fencing on the downstream side of bridge behind the Historic Societies property. No one objected to this course of action. Ms. Bensetler said that they still need to pull out the pipe at dam #2 so that the steam can find its natural path. Ms. Bensetler said that a volunteer monitors the area once a week. Martha Remington said that we should leave the pipes at the dams so that they can be reinserted and lowered at a future time if needed. Mr. Fiehler said that if the beaver come back we cannot let them get ahead of us. Ms. Remington asked if the Commission knows where the new treatment plant is going to be located. Ms. Gumbart said that the Commission understood that the old idea of a recirculating sand filter system was proposed in the sheep field. Ms. Remington said that they are interested in protecting the integrity of the bridge #3 if piping is added for the project. The Commission members agreed (no quorum present) that they would not remove the pipes at this time and that they would want to hear from the volunteers again in the spring.

4. Purchase Equipment Sarah Greenough agreed to check on prices at Home Depot for a trailer.

5. Nitzsche, 2 Wheeler Road (112-507) Without a quorum present, the Commission was unable to take any action on this item. The members present agreed to reschedule a time to vote and issue the Order of Conditions. Carol Gumbart will make the arrangements.

6. Conservation Restrictions Members discussed their progress at retrieving the deeds and plans for the Conservation Restrictions as delegated by Scott Duhaime. It was agreed that once everyone has completed the tasks the Commission will need to review the findings as a group.

7. Wetland Bylaw Revisions Ed Englemann provided two drafts of revisions he made with the intent of adding the prohibitions from the Water Resource Protection District Bylaw into the Wetland Bylaw. Mr. Englemann said that he tried in the first draft to make the exceptions understood while not being expressly written. After discussion the members agreed that only draft #2 needs to be considered. Mr. Englemann said that in preparing these drafts he revisited the Wetlands Protection Act regulations and found that the presumption of wildlife values is a difficult one to overcome. Carol Gumbart said that we might not want to use the references made to the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations unless the Bylaw already does this. Ms. Gumbart said that the revisions should be consistent with the rest of the Bylaw. Mr. Englemann said that he would email the text to Ms. Gumbart and she will distribute it to others.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Gumbart
Conservation Administrator