

Bolton Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
July 11, 2006

PRESENT: Scott Duhaime (7:30), Ed Englemann, Sarah Greenough, Lori Stephenson and administrator Carol Gumbart.

1. Wetland Restoration Project in the Bolton Flats Beth Suedmeyer, of the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Agency (CZM) and Massachusetts Wetlands Restoration Program (WRP) was present by appointment to discuss a biological control project being implemented in the Bolton Flats. Residents Rona Fisher (Balco) and Pat Bensestler were present for the discussion. Ms Suedmeyer said that Massachusetts started using biocontrol for invasive species in the mid to late 1990's but it was not until 2000 that the WRP began adopting sites. Ms. Suedmeyer said that purple loosestrife is an aggressive invasive plant that has an impact on the diversity of wetlands and ecosystem dynamics. Ms. Suedmeyer said that while there has been some research on the use of biocontrols the research is still being done. Ms. Suedmeyer said that the Galerucella beetle is a natural pest in Europe and that Europe does not have the invasive problem with the loosestrife. Ms. Suedmeyer said that the United States Department of Agriculture contracts with Cornell University for a rigorous cycle of testing where hundreds of pests are considered and Cornell then narrows it down to those that best controllers for specificity and effectiveness. Ms. Suedmeyer said that testing was completed before 1996 and the National Wildlife Refuges started with biocontrol of the loosestrife. Ms. Suedmeyer said that the Galerucella beetle has been used in Massachusetts for the last 10 years and has been used in many other states for even longer.

Ms. Suedmeyer said that the best pilot project completed by the WRP is in Walpole. She said that it is a town owned site and the town allocated their own funds to purchase the beetles. She said that town appropriates between \$10 and 15,000 annually for the release of beetles for other sites in town. Ms. Suedmeyer said that the first sites the WRP performed the release were on MA Fish and Game properties and in Division of Conservation Service areas. Ms. Suedmeyer said that the MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program have given their approval for the release of the Galerucella beetle in the Bolton Flats as well as MA Fish and Game. Sarah asked what if any are native predators to these beetles? Ms. Suedmeyer said that some birds and maybe dragonflies would feed on them. Ms. Suedmeyer said that the beetles would disperse on their own. Ms. Suedmeyer said that releases have taken place but are unreported. Ms. Suedmeyer said that the Galerucella beetle could be transported within the state and out of state. Ms. Suedmeyer said that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has approved their protocol.

Ms. Suedmeyer said that a lot of the state sites have been self-contained. Ms. Suedmeyer said that there has been some spill over effect but no long term feeding on other plants. Ms. Suedmeyer said that over wintering has been successful. Ms. Balco said that the town does have native loosestrife and these beetles are known to feed on the native loosestrife as well as the non-native plants. Ms. Suedmeyer said that they have seen the beetles go over to multiflora rose too. Carol Gumbart said that she understood that honeybees feed heavily on the purple loosestrife. Ms. Suedmeyer acknowledged that this is true. Ms. Gumbart asked why the weevil (an alternative biocontrol) is not being used. Ms. Suedmeyer said that the weevil is a root borer and it is more labor intensive to get the weevil into the root, it is more difficult to monitor the results, it does not migrate as well. Ms. Suedmeyer said that based on the effectiveness and costs the Galerucella beetle was preferred over the weevil. Pat Bensestler asked what the Galerucella

beetles look like. Ms Suedmeyer said that they are around 2 to 3 millimeters in size. Ms. Suedmeyer said that she would send pictures. Lori Stephenson said that the University of Massachusetts helps to monitor orchards for pests and she asked if they are aware of the release sites? Ms Suedmeyer was not sure if UMASS was aware, she said that she would investigate. Ms. Gumbart asked Ms. Suedmeyer to describe how the work and monitoring will be done. Ms. Suedmeyer said that the release area is a meter square polygon that is established with transects and plots for monitoring. Ms. Suedmeyer said that the beetles are winged but they are not good fliers. Ms. Suedmeyer said that the release is at the edge of the field that gets plowed and that they will walk in from route 117. Ms. Gumbart asked what plants are in the plant community and Ms. Suedmeyer said that there is some willow, alder and reed canary grass. Ms. Suedmeyer said that the beetles used in this release were imported from New Jersey. Ms. Suedmeyer said that some are being grown in Groton but that because of logistical issues the beetles in the Bolton Flats aren't local. Ms. Suedmeyer said that Tim Simmons and Chris Buelow from the Massachusetts natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program would assist with the monitoring. Ms. Suedmeyer said that the town could be copied on the data sheets.

Taylor, 46 Nourse Road (112-514) Scott Duhaime opened the continued public hearing on a Notice of Intent (NOI) filed by David Favareau on behalf of David and Pam Taylor proposing to upgrade a septic system, relocate a well and improve drainage. Mr. Favareau was present for the continued hearing. Mr. Favareau said that they met with the Board of Health last week and they now have a signed permit. Mr. Duhaime asked if the swale would be a mowable area? Mr. Favareau said that they would take out the riprap and regrade the ditch. Mr. Favareau said that it will be a gentler swale and can be mowed once a year. Mr. Favareau said that culvert pipes are now 12 inch in diameter instead of the existing 10-inch pipes. Mr. Favareau said that they could mow between the two driveways. Mr. Favareau said that they would build a slight sump to collect the tailings when the new well is being installed. Mr. Favareau said that the will crush and fill the old cesspool. Carol Gumbart said that it was her understanding that Mr. Favareau was going to present the Commission with an Operation and Maintenance Plan for the swale and the two culverts. After discussion Mr. Favareau said that he will submit and O&M Plan via our email address. The Commission said that they could incorporate the O&M Plan in the Order of Conditions or have it included on the plan. Mr. Favareau said that he would like to discuss it with his client. With the consent of Mr. Favareau the hearing was continued to July 25, 2006, at 7:45 p.m.

3. Bursaw, 27 Millbrook Road (112-511) Scott Duhaime opened the continued public hearing on a Notice of Intent submitted by Jeffrey Bursaw for work at 27 Millbrook Road. Brandon Ducharme was present to represent Mr. Bursaw. Mr. Ducharme said that he met with the builder and homeowner and that there are not a lot of alternatives. Mr. Ducharme said that he has revised plans that shift the addition 3 feet away from the resource area and removed the grading. Mr. Ducharme said that alteration is now 325 square feet in the buffer zone. Mr. Ducharme said that the foundation drainage would run from the front to the back and go under the deck. Mr. Ducharme said that groundwater is about 3 to 4 feet below the surface and poses no problems. Mr. Ducharme said that the fencing that encroaches into the Conservation Restricted Zone A will be shifted or removed. The Commission said that they would like some type of flush mounted granite marker to be installed to delineate the Conservation Restriction Zone. Mr. Ducharme said that that could be done.

A motion was made by Scott Duhaime, seconded by Lori Stephenson to close the public hearing. VOTE: Aye, Unanimous.

A motion was made by Scott Duhaime, seconded by Lori Stephenson to issue an Order of Conditions including conditions requiring the fence to be removed from the Conservation Restriction Zone A, the Conservation Restriction Zone boundary be staked and delineated with a permanent marker that can be flush to the ground or raised with a notation that it is a Conservation Restriction boundary.

4. Blanchette, 279 Long Hill Road (112-515) Scott Duhaime opened a public hearing on an Abbreviate Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD). Carol Gumbart said that the neither the applicant or their representative were able to attend tonight's meeting. Ms. Gumbart showed the Commission the plans submitted with the ANRAD. Ms. Gumbart said that the applicant's representative David Burke gave her several times that he could meet with the Commission to review the wetland delineation. The Commission selected July 19, 2006, at 5:30 p.m. for the delineation field review and continued the hearing to July 25, 2006, at 8:00 p.m.

5. Naming Conservation Areas Carol Gumbart said that the Board of Selectmen would like the Commission to draft a policy for naming conservation areas. Ms. Gumbart will prepare a draft policy for the Commission to consider.

6. Department of Public Works Road Overlays Carol Gumbart said that the Department of Public Works is planning to put a pavement overlay on Quaker Land, Nourse Road, Forbush Mill Road and Hudson Road and has asked if they need to file with the Commission. The Commission agreed that they need to file and that a Request for a Determination of Applicability should be sufficient.

7. Regency, 893 Main Street Carol Gumbart said that she attended a meeting yesterday with Nat Tipton, the Town Planner and various representatives from Toll Brothers and Craig Martin from Ducharme and Dillis Civil Design Group. Ms. Gumbart presented a draft plan with revisions and said that Toll Brothers is proposing to relocate on unit to another to avoid any grading within the Zone 1 of the wells; add foundation drainage for several of the buildings on the lower side of the site; and change the size of the size of the drainage pipe that handles the runoff from the back of the site to accommodate the 100 year storm event. Ed Englemann asked what the amount of runoff from the foundation drain would be? Ms. Gumbart said that when she asked this question at the meeting, she was told that it would be very little and it was not something they could easily calculate. Mr. Englemann expressed his concern for any additional runoff being directed toward the Nourse Road wetland. Mr. Englemann said that it is his understanding that Nourse Road overtops occasionally. Scott Duhaime asked if the foundation runoff could be directed into the detention pond. Ms. Gumbart said that she did not have the answer but that the information will likely be discussed at the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. Ms. Gumbart asked the Commission if they would require an amendment to the Order of Conditions or whether the changes could be considered field changes. The Commission was not prepared to make any decision on this question. Mr. Duhaime said that he would attend the ZBA's meeting on 7/19 at 9:30 to hear the discussion on proposed revisions to Regency.

8. Upcoming Meetings Carol Gumbart said that she would inform Amy Wilson about the time for the ZBA hearing on Riverside. Ms. Gumbart said that the ZBA is also meeting with Ducharme and Dillis regarding revisions to Sunset Ridge Comp. Permit. Ms. Gumbart will ask Ms. Wilson if she can attend that discussion as well as the one on Riverside.

9. Agricultural Preservation Bylaw The Commission delegated the task of drafting comments for the Agricultural Preservation Committee on their draft Bylaw. It was agreed that in general the Bylaw promotes the goals of the Open Space and Recreation Plan by meeting smaller objectives to reach broad goals, that having a liaison is a good thing, that education about small farm operations is good.

10. Year End Expenditures Carol Gumbart said that all of the year-end acquisitions have been completed with the exception of the long-term sign construction project. Ms. Gumbart said that she requested money be encumbered to cover the sign construction work.

11. Bolton Conservation Trust Update Scott Duhaime said that he spoke with Ken Swanton of the Bolton Conservation Trust (BCT) and that Mr. Swanton said that Duane Henry has not been interested in working with the town to preserve his land. Mr. Duhaime said that Mr. Swanton feels we need to raise money for the Galeski trail easement. Mr. Duhaime said that Tom Parker is working with Rob Held on the Crispen property. Mr. Duhaime said that according to Tom Parker the BCT would file if they needed to cross the wetlands on Mentzer property for percolation testing. Mr. Duhaime said that Mr. Swanton and Tom Moses are planning to work on the Community Preservation Act in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Gumbart
Conservation Administrator