

Bolton Conservation Commission Minutes
5/31/16
Town Hall, 7:00 pm

Present: Brian Berube, Chair; Karen Overfield, Jeff Larence, Liz Luc Clowes, Lori Stephenson; Kathy Sferra, Interim Conservation Administrator

7:00 pm - 115 Wilder Road - Public Hearing - Russell - NOI — The Chair opened the continued public hearing. Ms. Sferra reported that the applicant has requested an extension to complete work on the plans. Brian moved to continue the meeting to June 14, 2016. Liz seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

37 Power Hill Road - Sidopoulos - Ms. Sferra reported that staff has not had an opportunity to review this matter yet. It was tabled.

Nourse Road - James - Certificate of Compliance - DEP 112-543: Ms. Sferra reported that an OOC was issued and expired. They received a new order, but want to close out the old file. Liz moved to issue the COCs based on the fact that the work never commenced. Karen seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

164 Long Hill Road - Certificate of Compliance - Ms. Sferra reported that the Commission voted to issue the COC last meeting, but there was no form to sign. The COC was signed.

Century Mill Estates - Brian indicated that they have requested to use one of the crossings on a temporary basis as they did before. The Commission reviewed the plan and determined that they would like to conduct a site visit and also find out how long they need to use the crossing.

7:15 pm - Public Hearing continuation - Knox Trail Council - 75 Hudson Road, Basketball Court NOI - Ms. Sferra noted that she has a draft order, but there is no file number issued yet. The hearing was closed. A revised plan has been submitted. She distributed the plan and draft Order. She noted that she used the Stow template as she has not found the Bolton one yet. She also suggested that the Commission consider issuing a single Order during this interim period, rather than separate ones under the Bylaw and Act, as has been the past practice. Brian noted that the plan includes everything that he remembered. Ms. Sferra noted that it is possible to finalize the Order, hold it, and make the issuance date the date that the file number is issued. The Commission agreed to do this given the time constraints. Brian moved to approve the Order as drafted and have the issuance date be the date the file number is issued. Liz seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. The Commission signed the Order.

7:30 pm - Public Hearing cont'd - Knox Trail Council - 75 Hudson Road - NOI - Driveway
The hearing was closed. Sferra noted receipt of a file number and a final plan. She distributed copies of a draft Order. The Commission reviewed and revised the Order. In response to questions, it was noted by a representative of the Council that existing concrete steps will be replaced. Fire stairs will be installed. Liz moved to issue the Order as discussed, Lori seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. The Commission signed the Order.

707 Main Street - Sferra indicated she met with the new owner of the property who is interested in removing Japanese knotweed along the brook as well as crossing the stream to use the rear of the property. She noted that they have pulled or cut some of the knotweed and now need to re-stabilize the bank. Sferra explained the stream crossing standards and the fact that they cannot just culvert the stream. She discussed with them various methods for controlling

knotweed. She said the owners are looking for guidance before they file. Lori said that some people have applied Roundup directly. The Commission doesn't like to see spraying near wetlands. Sferra described a knotweed removal project that is underway in Stow and the methods being used. Brian said the Commission has never discussed how to handle knotweed in resource areas. Jeff noted that it was an issue with the Town Common project. He is concerned about the impact of herbicide on groundwater. It was noted that there may be an opportunity to deal with multiple homeowners.

Old Shultz Farm - Sferra noted that there has been a call about work and storage near a wetland here. Lori said that it is at the base of Wattaquaddock Hill. Brian will drive by and look to see if anything can be seen from the road.

252 West Berlin Road Conservation Restriction - on agenda for next time for approval

Houghton Farm CR - Sferra asked the Commission if they recall signing it. The Commission wasn't sure. She will keep looking for it.

Reorganization/CC Membership - The Commission made no changes. It was noted that additional Commission members are needed. There was a discussion about putting an ad in the paper. Brian said he wanted to do a letter to editor about what we do. Sferra said that she thought they had something from Stow and she would find it and send it to Brian. She will also put something on the website.

Land Opportunity: Jeff mentioned that he had been asked about Town or Trust interest in a parcel of land off the end of Golden Run Road. There are two lots there. He will put some maps together and go look at it. Jeff will circulate an email.

7:45 pm - Continued Public Hearing - Lot 1 Century Mill Road - NOI, Scott Goddard

Brian read the public hearing notice. Mr. Goddard has requested a continuation in writing. Brian moved to continue the public hearing to Tuesday June 14, 2016. Liz seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Taylor Property - Clearing off West Berlin Road

Sferra noted that she heard from Rob Taylor today that he would be unable to make the meeting due to a death in the family. Present on his behalf were Ray Salmon and Leo Garneau of Northeastern Consulting Forestry Services. Sferra noted that she had made maps of the property showing the resource areas and gave those to the Commission. She also noted that staff had drafted an Enforcement Order. Mr. Garneau said he is a professional forester and wetland scientist. He said that he has walked portions of the site but needs to spend more time in the field. He talked with Mr. Taylor today and he would like to remove the slash, seed the area, and place straw bales for erosion control. Mr. Garneau would like the location of the erosion controls to be agreed on in the field with the Commission. He said that he believes that Mr. Taylor is planning a timber sale. Brian said that a few of the members went out with Mr. Taylor over the weekend. They would like to see a filing. Mr. Garneau said that one would be prepared. Brian noted that a stream had been clear cut. The Commission felt it was important to put a stop to the work and take the time to understand what is proposed. Mr. Garneau said that the first priority is to stabilize the site and get everything seeded, and get the hay bales placed. They would stop all work except removing slash. Brian said that he was concerned about the seeding. The Commission may want to see areas restored or naturalized but a filing is needed to determine how to proceed. Sferra asked what the reason was to for removing he slash. Mr. Garneau said that it was to be able to plant grass. Brian said we might want to use some of the

woody debris as part of naturalizing the area. Sferra asked if there was an imminent threat of erosion/sedimentation. Karen said that she thought that if there was heavy rain, there might be problem. Jeff said that it is a very large hill. Mr. Garneau said that after his site visit Saturday, he would have a better idea was is needed. He walked the site about three weeks ago with Taylor. His goal is to reclaim the farm and maybe have a dairy herd. He expressed that Mr. Taylor wants to make things right.

Ms. Sferra explained that a cease and desist letter went to Mr. Taylor. She suggested an Enforcement Order to formalize next steps. Mr. Garneau said an Enforcement Order would be helpful. The Commission can order site stabilization and limit the activities that are permitted on the site. He said he had no objection to an Enforcement Order. Ms. Sferra suggested that erosion controls be installed. She had questions about the type of seeding and thought the Commission might want to see some areas restored. She suggested deferring any removal of slash and focusing on the erosion controls. Jeff asked how far from the stream would the erosion controls be placed. Mr. Garneau said it is site specific and will measure off the top of bank. Jeff asked if erosion controls would be on both side of the stream. Mr. Garneau said whatever is needed will be put in place. Brian noted that there are two streams that are an issue, and there is also wetland in the rear of the property. Mr. Garneau said he would be delineating the wetland — that will be part of the filing. He thinks there is already a survey of the property. Sferra asked if erosion controls are needed to break up the run of the slope. Garneau said he will look at that. Karen noted that the hay bales might need to be moved later.

Brian suggested the Commission issue the Enforcement Order. It should require installation of straw bales or straw wattle. The Commission discussed the slash. Karen asked what equipment will be needed. Mr. Salmon said that it would be a few bobcats and a dump truck. There are about 6 piles of slash. Brian said that there were two down closer to the stream. Seed would be alfalfa. Garneau suggested another site visit. He said he would flag the hay bale line before the end of next week. He wants to move as quickly as he can. Sferra asked about a deadline for installation of erosion controls. Garneau said he could flag it Saturday. It was agreed that two weeks was a reasonable deadline. An extension could be requested if needed. Sferra asked about the deadline for the NOI. Garneau said it would be within two weeks unless an extension was approved. The Commission signed the Enforcement Order.

Vaughn Hill: Jeff thanked Susan and Mark Jones for work done at Vaughn Hill to make an existing trail legitimate across private property.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm on a motion by Brian, seconded by Liz and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Sferra
Interim Conservation Administrator