



TOWN OF BRIMFIELD

Salisbury Annex Building, 2nd Floor
23 Main Street
Brimfield, Massachusetts 01010

Ian Lynch, Chair
Roger deBruyn
Joe Collins
Matt Toth
Steve Phifer
Michele Restino

Agent: Angela Panaccione

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY MARCH 26, 2014 @ 7:00 PM

Members Present: Ian Lynch (Chair)
Matt Toth
Michele Restino
Steve Phifer
Joe Collins (*arrived 7:20*)
Angela Panaccione (Agent)

Members Absent: Roger deBruyn

Also Present: Mark Conners, Friends of the Windmill

Meeting Opens: 7:00 PM – Ian Lynch (Chair)

7:00 PM Administrative Matters: Minute Approval

Motion by Michele Restino to approve the minutes from Wednesday March 12, 2014
Motion Seconded by Matt Toth
No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

7:05 PM Public Inquiry: Land Donation/Windmill Restoration – Mark Conners

Mark Conners, from Brimfield Historical Commission and Friends of the Windmill, attended the meeting to discuss with the Commission the possible donation of the parcel of land the historic windmill was on. The Friends of the Windmill received a \$50,000 grant from the state to restore the windmill, but the grant cannot go to the non-profit it must go to the town. Mr. Conners was requesting the Commission accept the windmill parcel so it becomes town property. He was recommended to the Commission by the Chair of the Board of Selectmen, since it is too late to place a warrant article for the town to accept the land and if conservation accepts the land, it will not require a town meeting vote anyway.

There are also issues with the planning board as the lot is a non-conforming lot and the church requiring the parcel be professionally surveyed before it is donated to the town. The Friends of the Windmill cannot use grant monies for the survey.

Steve Phifer does not think the Commission should accept the land because of the long term maintenance required and believes the land acquisition should be left for a town meeting vote.

Mark Conners stated the money from the grant would cover long term monitoring and maintenance and the Historical Commission, as well as friends of the Windmill would assume monitoring and maintenance responsibilities with the town. The town may only be required to seasonally mow the grass on the parcel.

Michele Restino suggested the town attorneys' draft a Moratorium of Understanding (MOU) between the Conservation Commission, Board of Selectmen, Historical Commission and the Friends of the Windmill detailing the town's responsibilities with maintenance and upkeep.

Ian Lynch said the Commission would reconsider the proposal if they were supplied with a letter from the BOS stating they are on board with the proposal, the article cannot get on the warrant for this town meeting and a draft skeleton of the MOU between all parties.

7:40 PM Enforcement Order/Violation: 14 Marsh Hill Road

The Commission signed and issued the Enforcement Order for 14 Marsh Hill Road, as previously approved and voted on during the March 12, 2014 meeting.

7:45 PM Administrative Matters: Little Alum Lake Drawdown Violation

The Commission discussed the Little Alum drawdown. Currently there are several violations that need to be addressed. On Wednesday March 19th the Agent noticed no boards had been replaced yet. Then on March 21st, DEP inquired about the status of the lake level as fish and game was reviewing areas to be stocked and noted the lake level was still very low. Per the OOC, the lake had to reach pre-drawdown level by April 1st. The Agent spoke with the Highway superintendant and instructed him to begin slowly raising the lake level during the next two weeks to reach he April 1 refill. Against the agent's instruction, all boards were replaced at one resulting in an additional violation as there was no longer any outflow from the lake as required by the OOC.

The Agent will schedule a meeting with the Highway department and the Lake Association to discuss the drawdown violations.

The Agent also informed the Board of Selectmen they too were in violation of the OOC, since the permit was never recorded at the registry of deeds. The selectmen need the original to record it.

8:10PM Possible Violation: 6 St Clair Road – Ronald & Michele Cox

Mr. Cox notified the Commission the dumpster has been removed. The Agent stated she would conduct a site inspection to see if any resource areas were damaged in the removal process.

Meeting adjourned 8:25 PM –

Motion made by Steve Phifer to adjourn at 8:25 PM

Motion was seconded by Matt Toth

No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries

Sincerely Submitted
Angela Panaccione, Conservation Agent