



TOWN OF BRIMFIELD

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Roger deBruyn (Co-Chair)
Michele Restino (Co-Chair)
Joseph Collins
Joseph Coan
Joseph Gallo
Carol Platenik
Steve Phifer

Agent: Angela Panaccione

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MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY APRIL 13, 2016 @ 7:00 PM

Members Present: Michele Restino (Co Chair)
Roger DeBruyn (Co Chair)
Carol Platenik
Joe Collins
Angela Panaccione (Agent)

Members Absent: Joe Coan
Joseph Gallo
Steve Phifer

Also Present: No Public Present

Meeting Opens: 7:15 PM – Michele Restino (Co Chair)

7:15 PM Administrative Matters: Minute Approval – Wednesday March 9, 2016

Motion made by Carol Platenik to approve the minutes from Wednesday March 9, 2016
Motion Seconded by Joe Collins
No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

7:17 PM Administrative Matters: Minute Approval – Wednesday March 30, 2016

Motion made by Roger deBruyn to table the minutes from Wednesday March 30, 2016
Motion Seconded by Carol Platenik
No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

7:20 PM Administrative Matters: Other Projects, Monitoring, Enforcements and Violations

1. Site Visit to Solar Array: A site visit is scheduled for Saturday April 23, 2016 at 10:00 am. Andrew Worden will be in attendance to review on site areas of outstanding non-compliance in regards to the OOC issued for DEP File # 117-0338.
2. Request for Town Council Assistance: The Select Board approved the Commission request for Town Council Assistance with the request for a partial Certificate of Compliance for DEP File # 117-0338. The Agent will contact Town Council and begin the process.
3. Little Alum Dam/water level Follow-up: The Agent & deBruyn conducted independent site inspections of the water level and dam height at Little Alum per the request of Highway Surveyor Zach Lemieux and the Little Alum Lake Association. On March 31, 2016, Zach Lemieux took a laser level reading of the high water mark on the dam and it was 1.5 inches lower than the top boards. He ended up taking 1.5 inches off the top board and the total height of the boards now measure 32".

On March 31, 2016 Chairman deBruyn document the actual water level seems to be dropping quickly. He observed it was not because of any bypass flow at the dam because the boards are fairly tight and the leakage between the boards appears very small. The stream flow appeared correspondingly low. deBruyn also observed for other areas around town, the water table seemed to be dropping daily and only rises for short durations during occasional moderate rain events. deBruyn concluded if there was a rise of more than the current 5.5", the overflow would recharge the weak stream flow sooner than if the boards topped off at 36". He did take a current elevation measurement of the current water level and the high water line on the dam. It appeared to him the current water level was about 5" below the high water mark for the dam and the current flashboards are now in line with the water level after Lemieux cut the top board down.

4. Site visit with Mass DOT about Ditch Cleaning: A site visit is scheduled for Friday April 15, 2016 at 9:30 am, with Mass DOT, to review their plan for ditch clearing along Route 20, from Brimfield to Sturbridge. The current determination allows for adjusting, rebuilding and cleaning drainage structures, pipes and paved water ways; installing new hook lock frame and grates; removal and disposal of drainage structure and pipe sediments; repairing/ regrading shoulders.

The issue is Mass DOT did not present ditch and drainage cleaning in their original presentation to the Commission, they focused solely on vegetation removal.

The Agent will conduct a site visit with DOT and if the work proposed is in compliance with the scope of the approved project the Agent will inform the Commission and administratively approve the ditch clearing.

Mass DOT did supply the Commission with updated site plans clearly depicting the area of drainage concerns and proposed maintenance. The majority of area are currently paved waterways along route 20.

5. Discuss Town Meeting Warrant Articles – LAND & Landscape Partnership Grants: The Agent has been investigating the possibility of pursuing a grant to purchase the Springfield Boys Club. At the Mass Conn Meeting on April 1, 2016 and the Mass Land Trust Conference held on April 2, 2016 the Agent discussed with several possible partners the possibility of grants to acquire the area. Melissa Caryn, of DCR, recommended to the Agent to possibly pursue a Landscape Partnership Grant for the areas. The grant would cover the purchase of interests in a minimum of 500 acres of contiguous land, or land directly linked by other permanently protected land through: 1) Purchase of land in fee simple for open space, forestry, agriculture or water supply; 2) Purchase of a Conservation Restriction (CR); 3) Purchase of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR); 4) Purchase of a Watershed Preservation Restriction (WPR).

The grant also allows for the purchase and/or construction of a local park or playground (towns with a population of 6,000 or below), with funding available up to \$70,000.

Current Project Partners include: Conservation Commission, Trails Committee, Trails Association, and Opacum Land Trust.

Additional possible Project Partners include: Select Board, Historical Commission, Recreation Committee, Mass DOT, and Mass DFG.

The Reimbursement rate is up to 50% of total project costs, including reimbursable expenses and match. Maximum award is \$ 2,000,000. Final award payments will not exceed 50% of the documented project costs.

Costs eligible for reimbursement include all approved eligible project costs incurred within a contract or ISA period.

- Acquisition (appraised value; if two appraisals the lower value will be used)
- Recording fees
- Survey or plan of land

- Title research and certification
- Technical assistance to municipalities for development of NRPZ/OSD or other planning (up to \$40,000 per municipality)
- Inventory and related work for assessment of marketable ecosystem services provided by project lands
- Forest Management Plan
- Baseline Documentation Report (up to \$1,500 per BDR)
- Park or playground construction (up to \$70,000 per municipality)

Costs that are ineligible for reimbursement or inclusion in the total project cost include, but are not limited to:

- Staff salaries
- Application preparation and submission costs
- Costs incurred before or after contract period
- Legal fees(except those associated with specific eligible costs)
- Appraisal
- Stewardship endowments
- Equipment or goods
- Any other items as determined by EEA

Eligible sources of project match may include, but are not limited to:

- Foundation grants
- Municipal land, open space, CPA, or agricultural accounts
- Private donations
- Federal agency funds, grants, or loans
- Natural resources damages settlement funds
- Construction of wildlife passage or road-stream culvert replacement, to standards that provide significant improvement in connectivity
- Non-profit accounts
- State agency funds (allocations outside of this grant)
- Drinking water protection accounts
- Bargain sales
- Gifts of land
- Chapter 21E assessment or compliance fees
- Demolition or debris removal
- Other non-state funds approved by EEA

The construction cost of a wildlife crossing is an eligible source of project match. Applicants whose projects include roads are encouraged to seek to minimize the impact of roads on recreation, water, and wildlife. Projects including the installation of wildlife crossings to establish connectedness between conserved land at locations identified as likely to provide a significant improvement in terrestrial or aquatic habitat connectivity, will be viewed favorably. Projects including the construction of a wildlife crossing on a major highway such as the Mass Pike or Route 2, are especially encouraged.

Transfer of Other Municipally-Owned Land is an eligible source of project match. Other town owned land that is not permanently protected under Article 97, or with an unclear or disputed status may, be included in a project as a portion of partners' match, or be included as part of the project acreage, provided it is permanently protected as part of the project. Applicants seeking to use the value of such land as project match must justify its inclusion.

Motion made by Joe Collins to support the FY17 warrant Articles for the LAND Grant and the Landscape Partnership Grant

Motion Seconded by Roger deBruyn

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

6. Town Meeting: Monday May 16, 2016 at 7:00 pm

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday April 27, 2016 at 7pm

Meeting adjourned 8:10 PM –

Motion made by Joe Collins to adjourn 8:10 PM

Motion was seconded by Carol Platenik

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

Sincerely Submitted

Angela Panaccione, Conservation Agent