



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 MAY 11, 2016 @ 7:00 PM

Members Present: Michele Restino (Co Chair)
Roger DeBruyn (Co Chair)
Steve Phifer
Joe Coan
Angela Panaccione (Agent)

Members Absent: Joe Collins
Joseph Gallo
Carol Platenik

Also Present: No Public Present

Meeting Opens: 7:07 PM – Michele Restino (Co Chair)

7:09 PM Administrative Matters: Minute Approval – Wednesday March 30, 2016

Motion made by Joe Coan to approve the minutes from Wednesday March 30, 2016

Motion Seconded by Roger deBruyn

No further discussion – 3-0-1 (Steve Phifer Abstains) – Motion Carries

7:12 PM Administrative Matters: Minute Approval – Wednesday April 13, 2016

Motion made by Roger deBruyn to table the minutes from Wednesday April 13, 2016, until the May 25th meeting

Motion Seconded by Joe Coan

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

7:13 PM Administrative Matters: Other Projects, Monitoring, Enforcements and Violations

1. Discuss Site Visit to Solar Array: The Co-Chairs and the Agent conducted a site visit to the solar array off Old Sturbridge Road on Friday April 23, 2016 at 10:00 am. Property owner Andrew Worden was present, as well as representatives from True Green Capital. At the visit it was noted the access road had been paved over 1,200 feet to the arrays with no crown. Additionally, it was unclear as to whether the current drainage infrastructures are sufficient with the increases of impervious surface. True Green will supply stormwater information to the commission as well as a plan to crown the road and add drainage.
2. Discuss Site visit with Mass DOT about Ditch Cleaning : The Agent conducted a site visit 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 and the Agent determined the work proposed is in compliance with the scope of the approved project. Mass DOT provided an updated site plans clearly depicting the area of

drainage concerns and proposed maintenance. The majority of area are currently paved waterways along route 20.

3. Lake Sherman Treatments begin May 24, 2016: A pre-activity site visit scheduled for May 23, 2016 at 4pm. The milfoil treatment will commence on May 24th. Also Solitude will be treating Dean Pond and Quinebaug Cove this coming week as well.
4. Govin Meeting Thursday May 19, 2016 at 6:00 pm: The Select Board has requested a multi-departmental meeting regarding the Govin situation. The Agent did not have any prior knowledge of the situation. Commissioners Phifer and deBruyn explained what they remembered of it to the Commission. The Commission read the most recent letter sent to the Select Board in regards to the case. To summarize the history it dates back to a FY 1999 Tri-Town CDBG application w/Wales for septic repairs. Mr. Gouvin was not satisfied w/the first contractor on the repair of his septic system and neither was the Town nor PVPC and as a result, the contractor was terminated. A new contractor was identified to correct the work of the first contractor and the saga began. There were a total of 3 or 4 septic contractors, a well driller, 2 or 3 engineers, a couple of housing contractors (claims for damage to his home), a paving contractor (claims to damage to his driveway), etc. There were multiple tests conducted on water, septic and transmission line and anything that was identified as not functioning as designed, was corrected. Everything was fully functional according to both independent engineers and water labs. The Agent and any Commissioner who is able to attend will go to the May 19th meeting.
5. Request for Site Plan Review 310 Sturbridge Road – Building Addition: The Agent conducted a site visit in early March and determined the location of the new garage is located in a previously disturbed upland section of the property and completely outside of any area of jurisdiction.
6. Jackson Aquatic Connectivity Team (UMASS) wetlands survey – Wales Road: A Masters Candidate from Umass will be conducting wetlands surveys at the Wales Road Conservation Land (Map 17 B 7) this summer (June-October). The student is targeting shrub swamps to conduct vegetation surveys to better assess the health of wetlands in Massachusetts. Upon completion of the study the student will present their findings to the Commission (October ish).
7. Senior Worker Request – Office/Administrative Assistance: The Commission discussed requesting a senior worker to assist with administrative office duties. There has been some interest by a few seniors and the Commission could use the extra help with filing and database updates.
8. Discuss Town Meeting Warrant Articles: The Commission discussed the warrant articles for Town Meeting. The Agent will prepare a power point presentation for all the articles. The presentation will have photos and maps of the land transfer parcels and relevant information about the Landscape Partnership grant.
9. Discuss Fin Com Meeting: The Finance Committee discussed two Commission Sponsored warrant articles at their Thursday May 5, 2016 at 8:00 pm. Chair Restino and the Agent were present. The first article discussed was the Conservation Land Management Account and the second was the Landscape Partnership Grant. The Finance Committee supported the Land Management Account and requested additional information about the grant, specifically if the Commission would be borrowing and if so for approximately how much. The Agent supplied the Finance Committee with that information this week. Additionally, the Finance Committee recommended a 2% raise for the agent and the \$800 request for a new computer.
10. Discuss Bylaw Committee Meeting: The Bylaw committee unanimously approved the wetlands protection bylaw at the Tuesday May 10, 2016 Bylaw Committee hearing. at 7:45 pm. The Committee was very receptive to the revised bylaw and felt it addressed the main issues present in town – being the lack of enforcement ability by the Commission to enforce a mandated state law. The revised bylaw was short and concise and effectively offers a much needed mechanism to ensure compliance with the WPA.

11. Water Quality Monitoring C4RWC – Foscett Mill Brook, Bottle Brook, Kings Brook, Penny Brook, and Blodgett Mill Brook: The Chicopee 4 Rivers Watershed Council is seeking volunteers to help with weekly stream temperature monitoring of Foscett Mill Brook, Bottle Brook, Kings Brook, Penny Brook, and Blodgett Mill Brook. These five streams are designated cold water fisheries resources and are also the headwaters to the Quaboag River and the beginning of the Chicopee River (a sub-basin of the Connecticut River) Watershed.
12. Michael Millers Letter: Michael Miller has sent two letters to the Commission (dated 4/25/2016 & request a log of all site visit the Agent has conducted since 2016. The request is on Select Board letter head, but it is unclear if the request is from the Select Board or Mr. Miller the individual. Upon corresponding unofficially with the other two Select Board members it would appear this is the request of an individual, not the Board. The Select Board neither voted nor authorized Mr. Miller to send the request. Restino stated it is apparent he is targeting the agent again and continuing with his harassment of her. Restino will send an official letter to the Select Board requesting clarification on whom the request is from and if the Select Board is requesting the information from all boards and committees it will be provided.
13. Town Meeting: The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday May 16, 2016 at 7:00 pm

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday May 25, 2016 at 7pm

Meeting adjourned 8:35 PM –

Motion made by Steve Phifer to adjourn 8:35 PM

Motion was seconded by Roger deBruyn

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

Sincerely Submitted

Angela Panaccione, Conservation Agent