

Conservation Commission Special Meeting 5 Dec 2011

Members Present: Dick Holmes, Steve Dumont, Jim Fowler, Steve Neill (ex officio),
Mike Francis

Alternate Members Present: Chris Hemingway

Guests Present: Travis Royce, Landmark Land Services, LLC.
called to order 6:35 P.M. by Dick Holmes chair

Members of CCC, Jim Fowler, Dick Holmes, Steve Dumont, Mike Francis, and Steve Neill met Sharon Monahan and Travis Royce 26 Nov, 2011 and walked the impacted site and the proposed mitigation site.

Whelen Engineering wetlands mitigation – CCC reviewed reports forwarded by Sharon Monahan, wetlands scientist, Site Succor Design, LCC.

CCC reviewed mitigation options from last meeting. Option 1) put an easement on a mitigating property ten times larger than impacted property. Option 2) construct a wetland. Option 3) put money into ARM. Travis Royce mentioned \$348,000 in this case. CCC discussed options. Option 2 is not a good option. Jim Fowler mentioned that creating new wetlands does not have a good success rate. Option 3, CCC has had problems getting ARM money in the past for projects. Option 1 is our best option. CCC understands we could put forth another site for mitigation, but we have sent easement information to landowners in town in the past and received little to no response. The time frame for this project would be considerably slowed if we pursued another land option. The proposed mitigation site on Hackett Swamp Road: 1) would gain the town more than 2X the easement property as required by law, 2) is a buffer for wetlands along 2/3 of its border, 3) abuts a large expanse of open land, 4) saves land that is very developable. Motion made by Jim Fowler, seconded by Steve Dumont to accept the Hackett Swamp parcel as the mitigating site for the impacted land at Whelen engineering. Passed with unanimous vote.

CCC discussed recommendations:

For the impacted land at Whelen Engineering – 1) Identify any endangered species and move to a suitable site. 2) Identify any invasive species and process and dispose of on site, using best practices for the species.

For the mitigating land on Hackett Swamp Road – none

Charlestown Conservation Commission requests copy of the easement for its files.

Minutes submitted by Jim Fowler secretary

Minutes approved by Dick Holmes chair

Dick Holmes date