

Conservation Commission Minutes
Meeting – November 29, 2012

Present: Paul Sokoloski, Brian Dejnack, Ben Byrne, Louis Misiun, Jr.
Absent: Phil Savage – who has reportedly resigned (need a letter to confirm)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Minutes of the September meeting were reviewed and accepted. There was no meeting in October.

Mail was reviewed.

Old Business:

Certificate of Compliance – DEP # 142-0168 A Certificate of Compliance for the Order of Conditions issued in 2011 for **234 Lower Road** was approved and signed by all of the board members present. Notice of same will be sent to the property owners with a request that a copy of the recording confirmation be returned to the Town.

New Business:

1. Request for Determination of Applicability - 143 Conway Road
Present: Bill Lattrell, environmental consultant
Chester Ostrowski, property owner
John Edwards, Bluewave

Mr. Lattrell, at the request of the board presented his findings regarding the proposed solar project. In his site visit he noted a significant network of wetlands. He noted that the land is currently used for agricultural purposes, which makes it exempt from the Wetlands regulations; however the proposed change of use would not be exempt. His recommendation was that a complete delineation of the wetlands be done and the proposed project be redesigned to avoid some of the wetlands. The Board accepted this recommendation and issued a positive determination. For this project to proceed, a NOI should be filed.

2. Request for Comment – Agricultural Preservation Restriction
Properties off Sugarloaf Street

In response to a request from the Franklin Land Trust for an opinion regarding protection of the properties owned by Carol Gritz and John Grybko from development and its effect of the Town's Open Space Plan, the Board had a brief discussion. It was noted that the sandy soil in that area is generally used for growing corn. The thought was expressed that the Town might benefit more by its development, adding to the tax base; however the Board chose to submit no comment.

Other Business:

Beaver Problems: Steve Barrett stopped by to discuss a beaver problem. He wishes to take out a beaver dam in a piecemeal fashion so as not to cause flooding. Mark Stinson of DEP recommends he file an RDA, which he plans to do.

Certificate of Compliance: DEP # 142-0176 Greg Gardner stopped by to request a Certificate of Compliance. The project, involving a bridge over a wetland area, had been issued non-compliance orders by DEP on August 21, 2012 (NON-WE-12-6W004). According to an inspection report issued by Tim McKenna on 10/24/2012, the issues have been corrected to DEP's satisfaction. Paul Sokoloski had some questions about materials remaining in the buffer zone. The board will take up the matter at its next meeting.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be December 27, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla Phelps