



OFFICE OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313
(978) 649-4514 FAX (978) 649-8893
mailto:concom@dunstable-ma.gov

Conservation Commission Minutes **October 11, 2011**

Meeting was called to order at 7:32pm by member, Alan Chaney
Members present: Marilyn Pike, Bill Moeller, Judy Larter, Jeff Haight & Juan Amodei
Members absent: Leah Basbanes
Meeting held: At the Dunstable Town Hall – lower level – Grange Room

431 Forest Street – Enforcement Order – Mr. & Mrs. McNamara

Alan told members that he and Bill had been out to 431 Forest Street to check on work that allegedly was being done in or near the wetlands without the proper permitting. After visiting the site, it was determined that an Enforcement Order (EO) would be issued to Laura McNamara to cease and desist earthwork activities immediately, install erosion control along the limits of the altered areas by October 7th, attend the next scheduled Conservation Commission meeting on October 11th, and hire a wetland consultant to delineate the wetland boundaries and prepare a remediation and stabilization plan for the altered area by October 24th. After receiving the EO from the Commission, Mr. McNamara had a question about the installation of the erosion control. Leah went out to the site to instruct the homeowner on the placing of the silt fence.

The McNamara's told the Commission that they hired Steve Eriksen from Norse Environmental to flag the wetlands and prepare a restoration plan for the property. They also said they contacted Andover Associates to come out and do the survey. The Commission responded by telling the homeowners that they appreciated their cooperation and immediate action to rectify the wetland violation.

Bill said that he believes the machine operator is as equally responsible for the violation as the property owners and should be included in the process. He went on to say that it's the operator's obligation to know the wetland regulations of the town he is working in. Mr. & Mrs. McNamara will be spending a lot of money for the delineation, survey and restoration and the machine operator should be financially liable for at least part of that cost. Mr. McNamara said that it was a friend of a friend that did the work privately and not a company. He said that when Leah was out at the site she suggested that the homeowner privately pursue recovering some of the cost.

Bill recommended that the stream channel trench that was dug be refilled with only the material that was taken from the area. He said that it should also be packed down by the equipment.

The resident will come before the Commission on October 24th with the restoration plan.



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Since the Secretary was instructed to issue the Enforcement Order before a vote at a scheduled meeting, Bill made a motion to ratify the action of the Chair, Leah Basbanes, to send the emergency order to Mrs. McNamara. Jeff 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

35 Valley Street – Removal of Trees – Mr. & Mrs. Vlahos

Bill went out to the site on October 5th due to a phone call from Mr. Vlahos about removing some downed trees on his property. Bill said that there is an intermittent stream with mostly buffer on each side. The area is forested with pines and poplar trees, most of which have blown over. The Vlahos would like to remove the downed trees as well as a few others. No grading will be done. Mr. Vlahos spoke to the company removing trees down the street and they said they could come in at the high ground. The Commission indicated that they would like the Vlahos to have the area flagged. Mr. Vlahos said that the property was flagged about 5 years ago, some of the markings were still visible and he has a plan. The Commission will conduct a site visit on Saturday, October 12th at 9:30am.

Mr. Vlahos then told members that on one side of his driveway, there is a lot of bittersweet and honeysuckle within the buffer zone. He would like to remove it. The Commission said that they will look at the area when they go out on Saturday.

Martha Morgan – Nashua River Watershed Association – Grant for Culvert Repair

Ms. Morgan asked to speak to the Commission regarding a grant to repair/replace a culvert running under River Street. Currently the culvert consists of two pipes perched at low flow. This particular area sustains a lot of damage when the area floods. Ms. Morgan is interested in applying for a grant to repair/replace the culvert to improve water flow as well as benefit wildlife movement. The letter of intent is due on Friday, October 14th. The plan is to do this project in two phases, the first being a grant to pay for the engineering design work for the culvert and the second to pay for the actual construction. As part of the grant, there would be educational outreach on impediment flow and dam awareness (maintenance and liability). Ms. Morgan had already spoken to Jeff Rider and David Tully, Jr. about the project.

Bill Moeller brought up the two drainage systems in Townsend (Townsend Harbor-Timberlee Park) that he designed. He suggested that they look into leaving the two existing culverts and adding a 3rd culvert. Between the three there would be more capacity than there is now. Bill made a motion for the Secretary to contact Jeff Rider to do a cost estimate for phase 1 – the engineering plan so Ms. Morgan can apply for a design grant. Judy 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Jim Dow – Wood Burning Furnaces

Mr. Dow approached the Commission to ask about wood burning furnaces. Members told him that he would need to contact the Board of Health.



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Demolition of Garage at Unkety Woods Preserve – Woods Court

Alan reported that he was waiting for Attorney Larkin to get back to him.

Mowing Conservation Areas

Alan said that Maria Amodei's sheep are at Flat Rock Hill Conservation area and will take care of about 80% of the grass, however, the Stone Arch Bridge area will need to be mowed. Alan will contact Bob Bacon.

Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2011

Juan made a motion to approve the minutes, with noted change, from the September 26th meeting. Jeff 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Review/Sign Bills

Bill made a motion to sign the invoices for office supplies and certified mail. Jeff 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's Payroll

The Secretary explained the new payroll procedure to the Commission. Judy then made a motion to authorize any Conservation Commission member to sign the Secretary's payroll provided the signed sheets are then brought to the next meeting for review. If at that time, an error was found to be made, a corrected sheet can be filed.

Flat Rock Hill Culvert

No report

Motion was made to close the meeting at 8:22pm. Motion 2nd. – Motion passed unanimously. The next meeting of the Dunstable Conservation Commission will be held on October 24, 2011 at 7:30pm at the Dunstable Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann
Secretary
Dunstable Conservation Commission