



OFFICE OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
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Conservation Commission Minutes **Monday, December 10, 2012**

Meeting was called to order at 7:32pm by Chair Leah Basbanes

Members present: Bill Moeller, Juan Amodei, Alan Chaney, Jeff Haight, Judy Larter & Marilyn Pike

Meeting held: At the Dunstable Town Hall– 511 Main Street-lower level– Grange Room
A local boy scout was in attendance to observe the meeting.

Request for Determination Public Meeting – Addition - 200 Pond Street – Hopke

Mr. Hopke attended the public meeting to request that the Conservation Commission make a determination on his application for an addition he is planning on adding to his home. The addition will replace an existing deck and will stay within the confines of the deck area. No part of the new structure will extend further into the buffer zone. Alan made a motion to issue a negative 3 determination. Marilyn 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

61 Valley Street – Brenda Carter – Enforcement Order

Ms. Carter was scheduled to attend tonight's meeting in response to an Enforcement Order that was issued to her in October 2012. Along with meeting with the Commission, a draft remediation plan for the altered areas was to be submitted by December 1st. No plan has been submitted to date. Earlier in the day, the Secretary received a call from Maureen Hanley at Norse Environmental Services, a firm hired by Ms. Carter, asking for additional time to submit a plan for 61 Valley Street. Ms. Hanley was put on the agenda for the meeting on January 14th.

Meeting Minutes – November 26, 2012

Judy made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, as submitted, from the November 26th meeting. Alan 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

A few minutes into the meeting, Alan made a motion to reopen the vote on the November 26th minutes. Jeff 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously. He then asked that the figure on page 3 be changed from \$34,000 to \$20,000. Bill made a motion to accept the meeting minutes with noted change. Marilyn 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Review and/or Sign Bills

None



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Review and/or Sign Payroll

The Secretary's payroll slip was signed.

Flat Rock Hill Culvert Repair

The Secretary explained to the Commission that Tim Joyce had called her the day before and said that Kevin Smith had been out to repair the culvert at Flat Rock Hill. Leah will stop by to check to see if it has been completed.

Christmas Tree Sale

Juan reported that conditions at Flat Rock Hill (rain) made it difficult for customers to get out of the muddy road. It was suggested that we may want to spread some gravel at the site to make it easier to drive down to the parking area during wet conditions.

Members reported a successful tree sale. \$320 was taken in from Amos Kendall the first week and \$300 the 2nd week. Flat Rock Hill made \$350 the first week (\$700 was split with Tim Joyce). The 2nd week profits will be reported at the next meeting.

December 24th Meeting

Alan made a motion to cancel the meeting scheduled for December 24th. Bill 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 14th at 7:30pm downstairs at the Dunstable Town Hall.

Request for Certificate of Compliance – 220 Forest Street – Erickson

The Erickson's from 220 Forest Street requested their Certificate of Compliance for work that was done when their home was built in 2005. Bill, Alan and Judy went out to the site and agreed that a COC should be issued. Alan made the motion to issue the COC for 220 Forest Street. Marilyn 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Removal of Trees at 220 Forest Street – Erickson

Dana Metzler approached the Commission at the last meeting asking if members could stop by 220 Forest Street to give him guidance on the removal of some trees located near wetlands at the Erickson property (his daughter's). Bill, Alan and Judy were at the site for the COC on December 1st. Alan reported that the trees that are to be removed have fallen or are leaners from storms we've had over the past few years. Alan said the trees can be removed but that machinery should not go past the man-made ditches located parallel to Forest Street, at the northern end, running east-west.

552/562 Forest Street – Wilkins Property

Dan Wilcox, from a local tree removal company, stopped by the office last week because while removing some downed trees between 552 and 562 Forest Street he



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discovered there was a nearby stream and wanted to make sure that he followed the Conservation Commission's guidelines. Alan went up to the site and reported that several large pines had blown down and there were several additional trees in danger of coming down near the houses. The stream bank is clearly defined and Alan stated that Mr. Wilcox knows what he can and can not do when removing the trees.

Additional Topics Discussed Not Noted on the Agenda

Article "Longing to Farm in Mass? A Service Finds Land" - Bill Moeller

Bill brought up an article he read from the December 3rd issue of the Boston Globe about a landowner in Groton that leases (for \$1.00 a year) land to an individual for farming through a matching service of the New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, a nonprofit organization in Lowell. He wondered if there was old agricultural property that we or the Dunstable Rural Land Trust own that may fit the mold for this type of program. Members mentioned the field near the Stone Arch Bridge and the Flat Rock Conservation Area as possibilities. It was also suggested that maybe local farmers in Dunstable may be interested in this program.

30 Acre Parcel on Hall Street/Lake Street – Lewis Property

Alan asked the Commission to send a copy of the minutes to the Lewis family and Town Council stating our interest in the 30 acre parcel on Hall Street. Bill made the motion to send a copy of these draft minutes stating that the Dunstable Conservation Commission is seeking to purchase the Lewis property for at approximately the assessed value with financing to come from a state self help grant (58%), the timber accounts (23%), and a Dunstable Rural Land Trust contribution and public fundraising (19%). Jeff 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Judy made a motion to adjourn at 8:08pm. Alan 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously. The next meeting of the Dunstable Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, January 14, 2013, 7:30pm at the Dunstable Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann
Secretary
Dunstable Conservation Commission