



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

Approved: August 26, 2013

Conservation Commission Minutes **Monday, August 12, 2013**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Chair, Leah Basbanes
Members present: Juan Amodei, Alan Chaney & Marilyn Pike
Members absent: Bill Moeller, Judy Larter and Jeff Haight
Meeting held: At the Dunstable Town Hall– 511 Main Street-lower level– Grange Room

Ms. Gove-Vlhaos – Regarding Activities at 61 Valley Street

Paul and Shirley Vlhaos attended the meeting to voice their concerns with some activities that they believe are going on at 61 Valley Street and to ask the Commission's help in resolving these issues.

Background Note: The previous owner (Harry Allard) had permitted a landscaper to operate his business out of the property. After Mr. Allard passed away, the current owner was issued a "cease and desist". The property owner applied for and was denied (by the Board of Appeals) a permit to run a business out of the property.

The Conservation Commission became involved with this property last summer due to a complaint about landscaping materials encroaching into the 100 foot wetland buffer. After a visit to the site, an Enforcement Order was issued to the owner of the property to clean up specific areas. Leah has been out to the lot numerous times checking on the progress. The area near the town line was the last remaining spot that needed to be addressed. Leah told the Vlhaos' that the materials that were removed from the buffer zone are now lying in a pile nearby and the area has been seeded.

Ms. Vlhaos told members that she hears machinery operating in the rear of the lot during off hours/weekends and since she hasn't seen trucks full of materials leaving the property, she wonders if items are being buried on site. She displayed pictures taken in the spring showing tires, barrels, rubbish and sand/road salt scattered on the property. Leah explained that what Mrs. Vlhaos is referring to is out of the Conservation Commission's jurisdiction. Leah told the Vlhaos' that during one of her visits to the property, she spoke to the owner who indicated that her son was digging up bricks on the lot to sell. Leah suggested that if the Vlhaos' believe there could be something illegal going on that they contact the Building Inspector and Board of Health.

The Secretary told Leah that the property owner called earlier in the day and asked that Leah come back out to make sure everything has been completed to her satisfaction.



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Meeting Minutes – July 8, 2013

Alan made a motion to approve the July 8th meeting minutes, with one minor spelling change. Juan 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Review and/or Sign Bills

None

Review and/or Sign Payroll

Alan made a motion to sign the secretary's payroll slip. Marilyn 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Community Preservation Committee Nominee

Alan made a motion to have Judy Larter continue as the Conservation Commission member to the Community Preservation Committee. Juan 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Special Permit Filing

The Secretary told members that the resident at 407 Forest Street has filed for a Special Permit for a backland lot. Members said that they will review the filing for potential wetland issues when the building permit is submitted to them for signature.

Certificate of Compliance – 275 Pleasant Street – Scott Silva

Leah had previously been out to the site and reported that there weren't any issues. Alan made a motion to issue the Certificate of Compliance for 275 Pleasant Street. Marilyn 2nd the motion – Motion passed unanimously.

Michael Barry – Bay State Forestry Service – Invasive Species

The Commission discussed the quote from Bay State Forestry for invasive species control. A copy will be forwarded to the Dunstable Rural Land Trust because part of the quote refers to property that is under their jurisdiction (Quarry area). Since controlling invasive species is one of the duties that the Commission carries out under the Wetland Protection Act (WPA), Alan made a motion to use WPA funds to pay for invasive species control. Marilyn 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously. The total for our part of the treatments is \$1,100. The Secretary will ask the Board of Selectmen to approve the expense.

Off Pond Street Swale

Don Vincent contacted Jeff Haight about a swale on Off Pond Street. Silt has been flowing from the road into the wetlands. Mr. Vincent created a small swale to re-direct silt into a vegetated area. Another resident on Off Pond Street has since filled in the



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swale. Mr. Vincent would like the Commission to take a look at the area and direct the residents as to what should be done.

Additional Topics Discussed Not Noted on the Agenda

41 Adam Street - Question on Tree Removal – Ping Li/Weina Zhang

The resident at 41 Adam Street attended the meeting to ask about removing trees that are too close to his house. Some of the trees are in the wetlands. The Commission decided that they needed to go out to the site. A site visit is scheduled for Saturday, August 17th at 9:00am. Members will meet the homeowner at the site.

Spaulding Proctor Timber Cut

Alan told members that an additional \$4,660.43 was received for the Spaulding Proctor timber cut in the way of an overrun. This brings the total in the Conservation Timber Fund to \$77,532.99 and the Town Forest Timber Fund to \$18,631.76.

Alan made a motion to adjourn at 8:08pm. Marilyn 2nd the motion. - Motion passed unanimously. The next meeting of the Dunstable Conservation Commission is scheduled for Monday, August 26, 2013, 7:30pm at the Dunstable Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann
Secretary
Dunstable Conservation Commission