

Essex Conservation Commission

December 15, 1998 - Minutes

Present: Edwin Perkins, Chairman, Robert Brophy, Edith Messersmith, Peter Perrigo, George Stavros.

Note: Minutes were taken by Commission member George Stavros due to the absence of the Commission's clerk.

Meeting called to order at 7:37 p.m.

Walter Montgomery, Open Water Marsh Management, met with the Board to discuss the program. He told the Board that the Mosquito Control program was implemented in 1958. In 1984, the grid ditch system was stopped. He noted that Essex was not in the program. Montgomery said they come in and manage the marsh/wetlands area for mosquito control. Perkins asked what Essex would have to do to join. Montgomery told him that an article had to be placed on the Town Meeting warrant. The money required comes from cherry sheet funding from the State. Montgomery indicated that he thought the assessment for Essex would be in the region of \$17,000. Communities that join need to stay in the program for three years. They also install the greenhead boxes on the marsh. Stephen Gersh noted that Eight Towns and the Bay is putting in a cross culvert on Conomo Point in an attempt to equalize the tidal flow. Perkins then asked about inland mosquito control. Montgomery told him, "We would put together a program for that, but a vast majority of mosquitos are saltmarsh. We also will seek funding on behalf of the Town for saltmarsh restoration projects or water mitigation." He added that they have a ninety percent reduction in mosquitos in open marsh restoration. Three thousand linear miles in Essex County were worked on by the WPA in 1933. There is a two hundred percent increase in bird returns, due to better habitat. Montgomery said he would be happy to show the Commission some of their work.

Symes Associates requested the Commission to confirm the wetlands boundary and riverfront areas by filing an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Determination at 105 Choate Street, Assessors Map 16, Lot 1.

Brian Waterman, Waterman Design Associates, Inc., and Atlantic Engineering and Survey Consultants, Inc., representing Mrs. Barbara Shaw, owner of the property, met with the Board. Waterman told the Board that the wetland delineation was requested so that they were able to see what can or cannot be

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done on the property. It was noted that the property contains 6 acres and one single family home. A section of the easterly property boundary is a perennial unnamed stream. The northerly and westerly property boundary is formed by Castle Neck River. Perkins said he walked the site and to him it seemed 'pretty straight forward.' Michael Keough, 106 Choate Street, asked how many houses would be on the property. He was told there would be a total of three, one is existing and there will be two additional structures.

With no further questions from the Board or the public, Perrigo moved that the wetlands flagging is an accurate determination of the wetlands boundary at 105 Choate Street, seconded by Messersmith, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

Brophy moved to approve the Minutes of October 20, 1998, as read, seconded by Messersmith, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

August Meyer met with the Board regarding his proposed project of the installation of a waterline at 23 LeBaron Road. Meyer told the Board that contractor Joseph Ginn had looked at the project and felt it would be necessary to go into the marsh for the placement of the line due to the trees and ledge. Meyer said a low impact trenching machine could be used for trenching along the edge of the marsh, which would do almost no damage to the marsh. Meyer indicated that there was almost no other way to do this project other than to do it this way. He said his water supply is running low and he is very concerned.

Perrigo moved to allow August Meyer, 23 LeBaron Road, to go into the marsh along the edge of the ledge with low impact machinery to place the waterline, which would have less impact on the marsh than blasting, seconded by Brophy, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

Sharon Defty, John Wise Avenue, met with the Board to ask what she can or cannot do along the edge of the marsh. Perkins told her that the Wetlands Protection Act states that any work being done within 100 feet of a resource area must come before the Board. She noted that she would like to put up a fence and do some clearing.

The Board reviewed the correspondence.

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Messersmith moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Perrigo,  
with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Prepared by:

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George Stavros, Commission member

Attest: