



ESSEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes for the Meeting of July 16, 2013

Commissioners:

Wallace Bruce, Chairman
Robert Brophy
Elisabeth Frye
Ted Marshall

James Richardson
Shirley Singleton
Samantha Stevens

Staff:

Deborah Cunningham
Administrative Clerk

*Absent

W. Bruce and E. Frye met with the Agent candidates Rebecca Markey and Nicole Pirog.

The remaining Commissioners arrived at 7:30 pm for the regular meeting.

The Commission opened a Public meeting on a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Douglas Camp to raise the roof of an existing garage on the same footprint and review replacement of previously existing shed and installation of storage bins at 138 Western Avenue. The applicant presented the plan for raising the roof on the existing garage which also included the work previously done in connection with the shed and the storage bins. The applicant also presented a request to replace a set of stairs at the back of the residence. The Commission approved the work to be done on the garage but requested that, after a site visit, the applicant file an RDA for the replacement of the stairs. On a motion made and duly seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to close the public hearing. On a motion made and duly seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to issue a negative Determination.

The Commission met with Greg Hochmuth, who was representing the owner of 234 John Wise Avenue in connection with an Enforcement Order. Mr. Hochmuth explained that his firm, Hancock Associates, had not been retained to oversee the work which had been previously permitted by the Commission. After receiving the EO, the applicant had contacted Hancock again and Mr. Hochmuth had been out to the site to document the work done which had not been approved. This work had been documented in an email to the applicant and was provided to the Commission. Mr. Hochmuth agreed with the Commission that there were numerous violations. After discussing options, the Commission agreed that a site visit would be scheduled and that the applicant would be advised on how to proceed after that visit.

MINUTES FOR ECC MEETING
July 16, 2013

The Clerk presented a file with an outstanding Order of Conditions. The applicant had been advised by a previous Commission that a Certificate of Compliance could not be issued until the driveway had been paved in compliance with the Order of Conditions. The Order of Conditions is now expired and the applicant which to obtain a Certificate of Compliance and wanted direction from the Commission on how to proceed. The Commission determined that no further work should be done by the applicant, the Request for Certificate of Compliance should be submitted, and the Commission would issue the Certificate with an addendum to explain the current situation. The Clerk will advise the applicant.

Mr. Richardson discussed with the Commission pruning and maintenance work which needed to be done at the property at 36 Island Road. The Commission advised that work done on the left side of the road could be done under the agricultural exemption. They advised that any work done on the other side of the road should be permitted since the area was not currently being used for agricultural purposes. Mr. Richardson agreed to file for the work he wished to do on the right side of the road.

Mr. Brophy advised that he had been contacted by Joe Parady regarding the repair of the deck on his duck blind on the Great Marsh. The Commission determined that if all work was done by hand and no disturbance was made to the marsh, the work could proceed without a filing since the deck area was above ground level. If any work needed to be done at ground level, the owner should file an RDA.

The Chairman presented the Minutes from the meeting of June 18, 2013 for approval. On a motion made and duly seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

The Commission discussed the candidates for the position of Agent. It was decided that S. Singleton would call the references provided and the matter would be tabled until the next meeting.

On a motion made and duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved: Essex Conservation Commission

Prepared by: Deborah Cunningham, Administrative Clerk