

Conservation Commission Meeting
2/21/13

Attendance: Tim Collins, John Lopez, Carl Shreder, John Bell, Steve Przyjemski and Susan Flint-Vincent.

Meeting came to order @ 7:07pm

1 Dummer Avenue - NOI -Michael Sylvester (GCC 2012-21; DEP# 161-0754)

Steve - Everything looks good.

Carl - Just show us quickly the project again, we were just waiting for the green cards.
If there's no further questions or comments from the audience.

John Bell - I would like to accept the NOI for 1 Dummer Avenue, plan 81412, and not to accept any further wetlands lines. Tim 2nds motion.

Motion carries all voted unanimously to approve.

John B. makes motion to close.

Tim 2nds motion.

Carl closes. Michael likes to come every Wednesday.

Camp Denison - received CPC money to improve the bath house , etc. Plumbing code requires copper and cast iron. Originally priced at plastic.

Steve: Commercial Bldg, so they need to go with the cast iron and copper which is more money then the plastic that they originally priced out.

John B. makes a motion to support the expenditure to upgrade the plumbing specs from plastic to copper.

Carl: Asks for a vote. Motion carries all voted unanimously to approve.

7:15 83 Spofford St. - (GCC: 2013-01; DEP 161-0755; NOI (New) - Nick Gallo

Steve: Existing wetland line of 75' from screen porch.

Carl: Any mitigation we can do to improve the site.

Steve: Tough lot because property slopes down to the house. Can not really give much lawn back to natural setting as he does not have much to give.

Nick (applicant): The screen porch would be on sonitubes. Currently there is a 4'x10' slider out to the deck.

John L.: Is there an opportunity for a rain garden?

Steve: A rain garden doesn't make sense. Currently slightly impervious as a deck. And the grading does not support that type of mitigation.

Carl: explains to applicant why the commission wants the water to get back into the ground to recharge the ground water.

Steve: just an option. Only other option is placing the screen porch on the driveway side.

John L. Are you happy with the erosion control?

Steve: It's a minimal issue. Hand dug sonitubes will not create an erosion issue.

Carl: A new porch wouldn't be permitted now, but there's an existing structure, and a lawn, the area is already highly disturbed. You say it's going to be a pitched roof?

Nick: Yes, the same pitch line as the house roof.

John: Do you expect to complete it this season?

Nick: Yes, I'm doing it because of the mosquito problem.

Tim: Do you have green cards?

Green cards given to Steve.

Carl: Any abutter comments to 83 Spofford Street?
No Comments.

Tim: Makes motion to approve 83 Spofford Street.

John B. Seconds.

Carl: Would you modify your motion that we will not be accepting any wetlands lines drawn on the prints?

Tim: yes.

John B. Re seconds

Tim motion to close meeting.

John Bell seconds. All vote in favor to close.

Turtle Project - George Comisky and Susan Speak, education naturalist and a teacher in Ipswich.

Over the last 12-13 years we've been monitoring the Blanding's turtles in Georgetown.

We hired Susan for her expertise on the project.

We've come in front of the commission before for funding, and that's why we're here tonight, to ask for funding:

In 2003-2004 we documented 8 hatchlings.

Just under 800 hatchlings

We know of 120 Blanding's, largest Blanding populations in the eastern US

Carl: Do you have any data on the longevity of the turtles?

Susan: Do have some data on the females, 122 that return to the same spots to nest every year.

Other populations: Great Meadows, Concord near Fort Devens,

George: Have lot of support from kids in town playing soccer. Lot of support from the Groveland business, great project encompassing many towns. State interested in buying an additional 80 acres

Carl: Are you interested in money for study or habitat?

George: Last year we used the money for tracking.

John L: We gave more money than the state.

Susan S.: Yes, you did in 2007 or so.

Susan S.: You originally surveyed 1 site, there are now 4 sites. It would be my recommendation to close the fields for the two weeks when the turtles are on the field.

Carl: ATVs are a problem.

George: We can contact the environmental police and post the land.

Carl: The police can follow the ATVs back to the home of origination.

Steve: I am recommending to give money for the next 2-3 years, so it's easier for paperwork.

George gave Carl the full report.

Steve: We've given \$6000/ for 3 years. We have \$32,000 in the Conservation fund.

George: We're having a benefit at Flatbread Pizza 5-9 next Tuesday night in Amesbury, to raise money for the Blanding's project.

John L: \$5000 for 3 years.

Carl: \$1500 for a couple of years.

Steve: It's an increase, but it is worth it.

John L: Makes a motion to fund the turtle management at \$4000/yr for 3 yrs. per order, and that Mr. Comisky briefs the Conservation Commission on the turtle project at the end of each year.

Tim: seconds.

Carl: reiterates, Discussion? How much do we have in the account?

Steve: \$32,000, We need some for the Boy Scouts, but it's a couple hundred bucks here and there.

Carl: Makes sure that we don't use it all in one place.

Steve: After the 32K is gone, the fund won't be replenished. There are other ways to raise money to help the turtle project. Make sure we have money for National Heritage projects.

Steve: This account was never voted on in Town meeting, so it is not legitimate.

Carl: If the monies are not spent in this period...we need you to be accountable for it.

George: It will get used, even if it's rolled over. Keep the state land agents interested.

Steve: I am working with them this week.

Carl: \$4000 for 3 yrs.

Carries unanimously.

7:45: 27 Pillsbury St - (GCC-2013-02; DEP 161-07) – NOI in-ground pool - Bill Manuel, Wetlands Lands management. Kelly and Edward Cavorta

Steve: May I have the green cards? I see them in your pocket.

Bill: Long lot, wooded and vacant, very small lawn area, wetlands back, uplands in the back. We would like to put the in-ground pool in the back of the house. We've done everything we can to keep the pool in the grass area. The project leaves the grass area a tiny bit, but there's no additional loss of trees or shrubs. Moderate slope, micro topography, drop off behind a big rock. 50' no build line comes through the project. Like to put a 40' x 15' foot pool, liner on a steel frame, goes up very quick. Try very hard to stay in grass area. 20' is standard, we are making it 18' wide. We would like a shed for pool area and a fence just off the back edge of the concrete apron.

Bill: Construction comes in, small excavator 7.5' x 3.5'. We want to put the pool just a little higher than grade so H2O sheds. We would put in a vinyl fence, to block critters from coming up out of wetlands and going into the pool. This would also keep the pets in the fence area. The Homeowners have gone out of way to minimize impact. We lose no trees.

Carl: What is the distance pool itself to resource area?

Bill: 48.5', we really tried to keep it so it is minimizing the impact.

John L. Would your client consider planting some native non-hybridize along the fence?

Steve: This should be outside the 75'.

Bill: I thought the area was 50' for no build.

Steve: No build was outside the 75', no disturb the 50'. Can the concrete apron be shortened up?

Bill: We will see what we can do.

Carl: 95% of the project is a waiver.

Steve : This is considered a luxury, if it was a septic system, I would be more willing to work with you.

Bill: This distance is 12',

Carl: Where's the septic, out front?

Bill: Yes, it's out front.

Steve: Can the shed move up closer to the 75'? You want to limit the impervious surfaces. Can this move out front?

John L. Do our regulations require a written request?

Bill: In my narrative, I did request a waiver. What I asked was that there was a minor incursion into the 50' zone. I didn't go into detail into the minor incursion. There's not a wide open area.

The shed will be 12' x 20'.

Carl: More than 120' floor space requires a building permit.

Kelly: The side of house has shrubbery and trees, even though it's out of the wetlands.

Steve: Shed can go outside of the 75' or even outside the Conservation Commission's jurisdiction. When it is possible to get work outside the jurisdiction we try to encourage applicants to do so.

Carl: Can the shed go on the other side of the pool?

Bill: Jamming a shed 10' away from the house?

Edward: We could center it from here to here...

Kelly: Where are you asking to shed to be?

Steve: If you can improve the project to what's best for the resource.

Carl: We are trying to meet with you somewhere in the middle, but you need to have a legitimate reason why we are giving a waiver.

Bill: The pool is a Salt water system.

Edward: There is no backwater flush.

Kelly: We have done everything we can to keep it from impacting the wetlands.

Bill: We've done everything we can do to minimize impact, 1) kept as far out of wetlands as possible
2) minimized size of pool to reduce impact.

Carl: I understand you've worked at it, but we need to do everything we can do to minimize impact.

Bill: My clients have disturbed very little in 3.7 acres only disturbed MAYBE .5 acres.

John L.: Your best interest to sway us why alternatives won't work. Why this is the best option? Build it into a persuasive argument.

Kelly: Vinyl over chain link, no wildlife in pool, we won't be disturbing the wooded area in the front of the house.

Edward: I think we can move the shed closer to the house.

Kelly: What would you like to see? Everything outside to the 50' buffer?

John B: As close to the 75' as possible.

John B: Next Mtg March 25th.

Carl: This is not National heritage land.

George and Nancy Thompson. abutters, no issues.

John B. Motion to continue the hearing to March 21st at 7:35pm.

Second: Tim

Carl: By that time will you have a draft?

Bill: Yes, that's a LIFETIME AWAY.

Motion carries unanimously.

Community gardens: 8:11pm. - Lillabeth Weis,

Lillabeth: I have been a resident since 2004. I met with Steve 2 years ago to see what would be helpful to Georgetown

What came out of those discussions, was this project, a permaculture garden.

Permaculture: termed as the conscious, stability - look at the way we handle water as a town, to allow the plants to filter the land. Once you cut down the trees, you have 70% of the water going south.

Carl: Pollution extends way outside of the immediate area.

Lilliabeth : A lot of towns, have gone to annuals, which don't support the natural system.

Plant trees that are product. Fashion after natural systems, for us that would be the forest. They can be self-sustaining. On a small property, you can produce organic food, and be self-sustaining and teach people. Mimics community garden plots. The concept is:

This is the site on 133, an old pumpkin patch. We want to reuse the part that was in agriculture, surround with nut trees and fruit trees. I've set this up on telephone lines. We could put fruit trees, nut trees, shrubs, then people could plant their gardens. Every plant is supporting other plants. We won't have the monocrop problems, with diseases. We would allow leaves to the compost into the system. Constantly feed back into the system.

Carl: For fruit trees that you would still have to spray them.

Lilli: We would use organic fertilizers.

Carl: Organic and inorganic is a misnomer

Lilli: Recycle materials don't take away. Feed top down w/ organic matter, use bone meal, not superphosphate. Soil is always rebuilt through the system, so you don't need to add more than what is already there. People could take on a C3 and harvest the produce. People could bring food up to a harvest center. There could be events, a farmers market, parking lot, walking woodland paths. We could have a mushroom farm for a lot of income, if it would work through the web of the community. If gas prices shoot up we can develop enough income in our own backyard.

John L. Is it taking new land or using existing land?

Steve: Old land reclaimed.

Carl: Lufkin's brook unique,

George: We have a self-help grant for the community garden, you may need to get permission from the state.

John L. What is the precedence for the site?

Steve: \$10/plot, pays for water.

Lilliabeth: There is a down hill swale, so we can recapture the ground water, and reduce the amount of water for the garden.

John L. Will this increase the water consumption?

Steve: There are legal and logistical concerns - big picture stuff, non-profit and where funds come to start it?

Lilliabeth: My company or some version of it would build it and get it running. It can be run as a contractor or a 5013C company. It might be ideal if the people running the garden plots can take over, manage and

run the property. I was thinking you could grow bamboo, and could sell products for fencing, 40% come back to run gardens.

Carl: Since they were state funds, will they have problems with structures. We would need to look into this potential issue.

Steve: Is profit on community land, legal? Should there be a stewardship committee?
Garden club isn't even a subcommittee. If money is going to a 3rd party, there may be an issue. As far as your company's role in this, it can be a consultant or the owner. Are you flexible as far as your roll in this project?

Lilli: Yes,

Tim: Arboun Private land,

Steve: How much are we talking about?

John L. We have equipment in town, but it must a town project.

John L. Will it be a concessionaire?

Steve: I have to look into it.

Carl: We have to talk to the people involved, is this something they want?

Tim: Are we going to cut down trees?

Steve: I tried to use formerly cultivated land.

Tim: Are the 3 ponds existing?

Steve: No, they would be manmade.
This open space will take a lot more work.

Lilliabeth: I'm excited to move forward, I think it will be a great community builder.

Tim: Say we went forward, but deleted the buildings. What happens?

Steve: If it's sold the money should go to the town.

Carl: We have not exerted control in the past over the individual plots.

John L.: Have you looked outside of the town?

Lilliabeth: No, I live here and would prefer to give back to the town I live in.

Steve: We've looked at different parcels around town, but we'd have to spend half a million dollars to buy them.

Heather Road - Certification of Heather Road 8:44pm

Agreement at the time was we would certify the vernal pool. We didn't know at the time that the pool was off site.

Carl: It is my understanding was that the owner of the land wasn't opposed to having it done.

John L.: I don't understand why being such a simple thing to do, why it wasn't done.

Tony: I think if it was on my property, I wouldn't want to do it, due to economic loss. The liability issue aside, if I knew it was off my property, I would have certified it. I put in my wetland boundaries, I moved a structure, put in plantings.

Carl: Assuming you know your property better than we do, why didn't you know if the vernal pool was on your land?

Tony: If the vernal pool is not on the site, I don't feel I should have to certify it. I'm trying to do the right thing and operate in good faith, all I'm asking the board to also operate in good faith.

Carl: What was the intent?

Steve: We don't do much off-site mitigation because it is difficult.

Tony: I don't think it's a mitigation issue.

Steve: You're within 200' of the property edge.

Tony: 400' off the road. Berta's home is now 248' off of Rock Pond, I replaced 3 granite bounds, 50' off of the pond.

Carl: As much as I'd like to have it certified, the OOC described a VP that suggested it was on property when in was in fact off property.

Tony is acting on behalf of the current owner. He is looking to close out the CoC.

Steve: We can issue the CoC, taking his word that the stone markers are in bounds. I'll go out and check. I'll prepare the CoC paperwork, and you can sign the paperwork at next meeting.

6 Norino Way - Mark West, Wetland scientist, compliance for Mirro to get CoC. Preliminary CoC want to go over project. **Chris Rork - Millenium Associates**, Engineering Agency

Mark: The first CoC 16178 reflag wetland boundary (certified wetland scientist from NH) - removing the fenced in area from a buffer zone and labeled with posts as a do not disturb area, leave to reclaim as a wetland area. Treatment swale to buffer steep wooded slope from runoff from vehicles dripping. Hoping to propose, to house some of the more sensitive items into a structure for protection.

1. Access way - Original subdivision plan 16175 to bring into compliance.

2. Back in 1998 - materials stored on site, identified wetland fill site. Access road - Update wetland

restoration, planting scheme and sequence. Researching 75K bond to finish the project and come into compliance.

Steve: 2) It is what it is. As far as the Mitigation plan, we can't find the original file. We don't know what was supposed to be done.

Tim: I'm concerned about the waste hill.

Mark: It is gone.

Steve: Are the posts demarked?

Carl: Make the posts permanent.

Mark: How High would you like them? Can we put granite markers, and then put taller posts next to them?

Steve: Yes. No straight lines, Maybe put them every time there's a turn in the boundary. Is there anyway we can bring the floodplain line further back?

Carl: Do they have a Stormwater management plan for the site?

Mark: We don't know, they were there.

Carl: Just because they've been there for a long time, doesn't mean they shouldn't be compliant.

Steve: I would like to see no cut permanent bounds placed at shorter intervals.

Mark: They could loam and seed with a wildflower mix. I'm here to gather information and go back and work with them.

Steve: I think the planting plan is a little thin, 80% plant survival. You can double the plant number.

John L.: You'll find a lot of bittersweet coming in, you can do an invasive species program.

Mark: I'll look into mitigation and into the wildlife management.

John B. What is happening up near the buildings?

Carl: Are there any fuel tanks on site?

If you have more than 1320 fuel gallons above ground, you need to have a SPCC plan.

Mark: The slope has been reseeded.

Tim: I like detail of lower slope.

Steve: We want to see a larger buffer.

CoC subdivision, sign off on plantings, continue to move forward on the CoCs. Keep good communication.

Mark: Our goal to get done before they start building the addition.

Carl: We would like to see work done before addition occurs.

Steve: I like the invasive species angle, look into that some more.

Matt Kelly Nat'l Grid VHB 9:24pm - Minor maintenance work to be done on lines. We would like to get the work done by the end of March. I have copies of the RDA, on the 394 line. The 345kb line, skirts the corner of Georgetown.

The work is off Hampshire lane over King Street, where ATVs ride over.

The work is a cross-brace maintenance project. Tighten bolts, make hardware adjustment. Use low-ground equipment. Ergo, conduct repairs by climbing towers.

All the poles are in uplands. There are two minor wetland crossings on Uptack Rd. Only have to work on wooden poles, no mats, only one wetland crossings.

George: The turtle migration time mid-April to May. He is also concerned that the ATVs mound the fence.

Matt: Need to talk to landowner.

George: Land owned by Town of Georgetown, Hampshire is an unregistered road.

Steve: I've heard clarification on Access. Are there any other suggestions?
You've said something about training.

Carl: I'd like to see a condition, if you find something, I'd like to see you file something.

Matt: We are required to file with the National Heritage.

George: March is when the amphibians all migrate to the vernal pools.
March sounds much better than May, June or July.

Matt: Can we speed it up?

Carl: We only get it done more quickly, if it's an emergency.

Legally we can't allow work to be done, and before the public is allowed.

Steve: I'd prefer to have this done on the next meeting.

John L.: Is this weather dependent?

Carl: I'm alright with that. If we are all set, and National Grid is ready to go as soon as the next meeting is held.

Tim: The work would have _____

Steve: Are you concerned about them driving across the wetland area? Or just about the wetlands?

Matt: These are Wetlands are located on the active roadway under the powerlines.

George: I am most concerned about the wetland traffic.

Steve: If they don't need the equipment, can they just walk across the wetland area, fix it? The timing isn't as much of an issue?

John L: Do they need the equipment?

Matt: just to carry tools and equipment.

John L.: Ask Mr. Comisky to give us a window when we they can bring equipment out.

Steve: This is nature, it's fluid, there isn't a definite time. Is this a reasonable plan? Can they just access this one pole on foot?

Matt: I'll ask them.

Steve: Make sure Matt is out there the entire time. See if you can prevent ATV access, for safety issues as well as the Blanding's turtle issue.

Carl: The Blanding's turtles like the sandy areas in the access roads.

Matt: I would like to have some more options to secure it.

Carl: The ATVs lift the chain high enough so they can drive under it.

Steve: How about a solid pipe, instead of a chain? We can put boulders on either side of the fence to prevent them from going around.

George: We might be able to put a sign to prohibit ATVs.

John B.: It's illegal to have ATVs in power lines.

Hearings: 186 East Main - nothing new,

Steve recommends continued until 4/25/13 @ 7:40pm
Unanimously passes.

Lillabeth nomination:

All in favor of recommending the Selectman appoint Lillabeth to the Commission.

Pentucket Pond continued until 7:45pm on 3/21/13

Motion carries unanimously.

Cleanup and 16 unit subdivision West street - Tidd's Junkyard

Steve: has gotten a bite to have someone buy the property and do something with it.

Continued until 7:35pm & 7:40pm on 4/25/13.

John Bell makes a motion to reappoint Harry LaCortiglia, Richard Talbot and Jeff Wade to the Open space board for two years.

Motion seconded by Tim.

Motion passes unanimously.

Camp Den - Alcohol permit

1st issue where they want to have alcohol at the camp. They need a representative.

John makes a motion to appoint Steve as the designee to sign off, Tim seconds.

Motion carries unanimously.

Steve: Motion to pay bills

Unanimously carries.

John Bell made a Motion to close meeting.

Tim seconded it.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting closed at 10:32pm.