

**Great Barrington Conservation Commission Meeting**  
**Selectman's Meeting Room, Town Hall**  
**November 22, 2011**

**ATTENDEES:** Pat Kinne, Andrew Mankin, Jessica Dezieck, Jennifer Connell, Bruce Gore, Orit Kadosh

Chairman Kinne brought the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

7:00 RDA – Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest/Dehon Road, filed by the Lake Mansfield Alliance/project of the Great Barrington Land Conservancy. Proposed project involves the winter removal and transport of available lumber from the Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest to the Lake Mansfield parking area by use of people, horse, and oxen power.

Christine Ward stated that she had written the RDA to allow for two options of transport, as at this point she is unsure of which will be used. Option A would transport the logs by Dehon road once having received permission from all of the Dehon Road landowners. Christine Ward is waiting to hear back from the Connelesky family, who owns property the transport would need to proceed through, before approaching the remaining landowners. Option B would transport the logs through only the forest. People would power the transport on the trails, and the animals would only come up to the bridge boardwalk landing pad, staying out of the resource areas. Christine Ward will keep the commission informed with the progress and decision on the transport plan.

**MOTION:** Andrew Mankin that we close the public hearing.

**SECOND:** Jessica Dezieck.

**VOTE:** 6-0, all in favor.

**MOTION:** Andrew Mankin that we issue a Negative #2.

**SECOND:** Jessica Dezieck

**VOTE:** 6-0, all in favor.

7:10 RDA SMA – 326 Long Pond Road, filed by Alexander Sarbib. Proposed work includes grading and seeding a previously cleared area, and the removal of trees.

Several commission members attended today's site visit. Alexander Sarbib has decided not to do a logging operation after Tom Ryan recommended otherwise. He will be working mostly on the right hand side of the property, removing approximately 30 to 40 trees at the most, most of which are already damaged. He will call Agent Sewall to let her know when he will be starting the work, and again when the work is completed.

Agent Sewall stated that Tom Ryan has examined the trees' health. The trees to be removed on the right side of the property have scarring on their trunks. This is less work than was originally

proposed and more about the health of the forest and its parkification. An arborist will be doing the work, and Alexander Sarbib has marked all of the trees to be removed for today's site visit.

The conditions are that Alexander Sarbib removes between 30 and 40 trees that were marked per the site visit of 11/22/11, and not cut understory. Agent Sewall will examine the site just before the work is begun, and again once it is completed.

**MOTION:** Andrew Mankin that we close the public hearing.

**SECOND:** Jessica Dezieck

**VOTE:** 6-0, all in favor.

**MOTION:** Andrew Mankin that we issue a Negative #4 with the conditions that permission is granted to cut 30-40 marked trees as seen on 11/21/11 during the site visit. Permission to clear shrubs and small trees only when necessary for the removal of marked trees. Notify the Town of Great Barrington Agent before work commences and after work is complete.

**SECOND:** Jennifer Connell

**VOTE:** 5-1, Jessica Dezieck opposed.

7:20 RDA – Amended NOI - 389 Stockbridge Road, filed by John Delmolino. The proposed project will include the construction of walls to close in an open pavilion.

Bruce Gore recused himself.

Diego Gutierrez officially requested to withdraw the previous application for the Certificate of Compliance which had been filed two months ago.

Diego Gutierrez proposed an amendment to the existing Notice of Intentions including a planting status and a new planting plan. Of the original plantings, less than half were found. The healthier shrubs were found toward the western third of the mitigation area, Area 3. Proceeding north, the vegetation is more dense, and in these sections, 1 and 2, there isn't much room to do additional planting. Diego Gutierrez proposed planting on the southern third of the area, caring for the area and removing the invasives as much as possible. The area would be like a tended garden with enough maintenance done to maintain the health of the native species and plantings. The new plantings would be in that initial third, Area 3. Agent Sewall presented a list of conditions, and the site plan and photographs presented by Diego Gutierrez will be kept in the file folder to refer to in the future.

Diego Gutierrez presented the second part of the amendment, which is to enclose the existing pavilion. He explained that the pavilion is roofed already, so enclosing it would produce no additional runoff to the bank. Because it is accessible from an existing parking lot and driveway, no machinery will go further than that already accessible area. The structure is already serviced and tied to the electrical and water area. No removal or addition of earth or fill is necessary, and no changes to the grading or the existing footprint of the structure will occur. Insulation will be

installed around the outer perimeter of the building by hand in small sections with minimal piling of the earth.

**MOTION:** Andrew Mankin that we close the public hearing.

**SECOND:** Jessica Dezieck

**VOTE:** 5-0, all in favor.

**MOTION:** Andrew Mankin that we amend the Order of Conditions file # 167 – 0342 with a new replanting plan as presented in reference on the plan November 14<sup>th</sup>, and that we also amend the Order of Conditions to allow the enclosure of the pavilion as presented in the same amendment.

**SECOND:** Jessica Dezieck

**VOTE:** 5-0, all in favor.

7:30 NOI – Maple Avenue, Map 30, Lot 45, DEP file # 167-0343, filed by George Beebe, continued. The proposed project will provide flood protection and bank stabilization along approximately 600 feet of the left bank of the Green River while providing excess compensatory flood storage.

George Beebe was not present at the meeting.

**MOTION:** Andrew Mankin that we continue the public hearing until December 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30.

**SECOND:** Jessica Dezieck

**VOTE:** 6-0, all in favor.

7:40 RDA – 88 Christian Hill Road, filed by Allegrone Homes Inc. Proposed work includes the installation of an inground pool, spa, and associated landscaping. The work is within the buffer zone of a Bordering Vegetated Westland and the riparian zone of an intermittent stream.

Brett Kamienski presented a revised plan that was requested after the site visit which proposed a 50 foot nondisturbance zone. Permanent conservation markers have been installed 50 feet off of the wetland lines. An invasive species management plan was also submitted.

Brett Kamienski stated that he did include in the plan that herbicide application must be done by someone certified in the process, and he believes that Craig Okerstrom-Lang would be the one to handle it. If Craig Okerstrom-Lang were to use pesticides, he would have to come before the commission.

Agent Sewall stated that originally there were five trees to be removed that weren't transferred to the new plan. If any plantings are to occur in the buffer area, the plants need to be native.

**MOTION:** Jessica Dezieck that we close the public hearing.

**SECOND:** Andrew Mankin

**VOTE:** 6-0, all in favor.

**MOTION:** Andrew Mankin that we issue a Negative #3 with the following conditions:

1. The invasive species management plan titled "Invasive Species Management Plan Conducted at Residential Property 88 Christian Hill Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230" is to be followed.
2. Any shrubs or trees to be planted in the buffer area are native.
3. 2 years after the invasives are removed, 10 native trees and/or shrubs are to be planted in the inner 50 foot buffer zone.

**SECOND:** Jessica Dezieck

**VOTE:** 6-0, all in favor

7:50 NOI – Rising Pond Dam, filed by the General Electric Company. Proposed work for maintenance repair of the dam includes the installation of sheet piling at the upstream crest of the right westerly dam embankment to reinforce and prevent seepage and internal erosion within the embankment.

Ken Mooney presented the plan in which sheet piling would be put along edge of the earthen dam embankment. The embankment area is currently riprapped. The sheet piling is 3/8" thick, making the total area of impact 1.5 square feet. The current piling would be extended about 150 feet along embankment, and the new piling would be hooked into the piling from the 1990's. The intent of lengthening the sheetpiling is to cut off any water flow from the earthen embankment as a safety measure. The sheetpiling will extend down into the ground by about 60 to 65 feet. It's estimated that the whole process should take about three weeks. Ken Mooney was told to notify Agent Sewall when they are ready to start work.

**MOTION:** Andrew Mankin that we close the public hearing.

**SECOND:** Jessica Dezieck

**VOTE:** 6-0, all in favor.

**MOTION:** Andrew Mankin that we approve the Notice of Intent with the standard order of conditions (8:10)

**SECOND:** Jessica Dezieck

**VOTE:** 6-0, all in favor.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

1. Approve October 26, 2011 meeting minutes.

**MOTION:** Jessica Dezieck that we approve the meeting minutes from October 26<sup>th</sup>.

**SECOND:** Andrew Mankin

**VOTE:** 6-0, all in favor

2. Benedict Pond Dam update – by GZA who will be representing Rising Pond  
Paul Davis was present with an update. He will contact Agent Sewall when they begin work in March. The dam is fairly shallow, and at the foot of the dam the concrete retaining wall needs to be repaired. To create a space to work and expose the foot of the dam, engineers will build a berm in deeper areas to create a dyke and then draw the water down to create a 15 foot wide area of working space along the foot of the dam. Once the work is completed, the berm will be removed and the water will come back up. The working time is estimated to be about 3 months, and Paul Davis said that he is hoping to do the work early enough in the season so as not to use the whole summer. The beach will be closed while the work is in progress because the water will be drawn down. The picnic area and boat ramp parking lot will be open. Paul Davis stated that the commission will be notified when he is ready to start work.
3. Chris Rembold – Update on Open Space and Recreation Plan  
Chris Rembold explained that having a current plan makes the town eligible to receive open space and recreation grants from the state. Great Barrington's current plan expired this past March. Chris Rembold stated that he feels it would be best to write the new plan in the next eight months so that the town is eligible for grants. A lot of the basic data is ready to go, but we need to update the open space vision and action plan. Doing so would require holding a few public meetings dedicated to the open space plan. There are already five people who have been working on the master committee already, and the committee and the Conservation Commission should work together with this. Agent Sewall estimated that if the Commission work slows down over the winter, she could possibly devote 6 hours per week to the open space work. Chris Rembold felt that a sub-committee probably isn't needed, and that he and Agent Sewall could update the Commission monthly on the open space progress.
4. CTC Electric info on solar panel project on Round Hill and Seekonk Rd.  
Chris Rembold explained that there is a proposed solar farm on Round Hill and Seekonk Road. The Commission's jurisdiction would be if there are wetlands in that area. Most farmlands in Great Barrington do have wetlands on them. Chris Rembold explained that this is not a proposal yet, and that there has been no formal motion. The panels would be on less than 20 acres, and he doesn't believe that the owner is planning to continue farming in those areas. Agent Sewall explained that the bottoms of the solar panels are three feet off the ground and the tops are angled to about ten feet. No one has approached the Commission yet, but they did talk to Agent Sewall about possibly filing for December.
5. McAllister property regulations conversation and site visit notification

Jessica Wikle stated that the commission site visit will be on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00, and the corner pins of the property will be found and marked. There will be a Greenagers workday on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Agent Sewall will try to email the neighbors to let them know of the dates of the meetings so that they can attend if they are interested.

6. New bridge going in on Alford Road on GB/Alford line.

Chairman Kinne attended the meeting about the bridge in Alford, and stated that the Great Barrington Conservation Commission will really have nothing to do with it. It will be the concern of the Alford Conservation Commission because of the way it is cited.

7. Monument Mills Update

Agent Sewall stated that Monument Mills has gotten started. She has gone out to visit the site once and has been in regular conversation with John Veronas.

8. A motion to adjourn was requested.

**MOTION:** Andrew Mankin that we close the public hearing.

**SECOND:** Jessica Dezieck

**VOTE:** 6-0, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted

  
Paige Cerulli, Secretary