

**Great Barrington Conservation Commission Meeting
Town Hall, 334 Main Street, Town Manager's Meeting Room
January 23, 2013**

ATTENDEES: Andrew Mankin, Jennifer Connell, Jessica Dezieck,
David Shanahan, Bruce Gore, Lisa Bozzuto

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

7pm – WPA NOI 167-0369 from Dave Inglis of Mahaiwe Harvest located on South Main Street, Map 37 Lot 93 for new agriculture in the resource area of the Green River, a Natural Heritage Endangered Species Habitat, and a 100 year flood plain. Representative Tom Coote

Andrew Mankin said we are still waiting on Natural Heritage.

MOTION: Jessica Dezieck to continue the Public Hearing to February 27, 2013 at 7:00pm

SECOND: Jennifer Connell

VOTE: 6-0, all in favor

7:15pm – WPA NOI 167-0370 from Andy Matlow and Foresight Land Services for the construction of a single-family home with all related site work at 71 Blue Hill Road.

Steve Mack reviewed the revised plans. He also reviewed the planting plan. Also noted that draft OCC looked fine. Agent Sewell commented that they would like a planting timeline. Agent Sewell said possibly June 2014. Andrew Mankin agreed. Agent Sewell commented that the OCC will ask that the Commission be notified when the plants go in so that the two year timeline can begin.

Agent Sewell said # 19 becomes moot. Now up to 35 special conditions: that the Matlows have the right to go into maintain plantings as to planting plan.

David Shanahan asked about elevation and erosion controls.

MOTION: Jessica Dezieck to close the public hearing

SECOND: Jennifer Connell

VOTE: 6-0, all in favor

MOTION: Jessica Dezieck to approve NOI 167-0370 with the newly presented plan and with the 35 special conditions.

SECOND: Jennifer Connell

VOTE: 6-0, all in favor

7:20pm – SMA #0013 from Andy Matlow and Foresight Land Services for the construction of a single family home with all related site work at 71 Blue Hill Road

within SMA area #9.

Andrew Mankin reviewed the plans.

MOTION: Jessica Dezieck to close the public hearing

SECOND: Jennifer Connell

VOTE: 6-0, all in favor

MOTION: Jessica Dezeick to approve SMA NOI #13 with 35 special conditions

SECOND: Jennifer Connell

VOTE: 6-0, all in favor

7:30pm – NOI – 167-03 from Lindsey Tuller of Riverbend Café at 405 Stockbridge Rd for the installation of a 10x20 cooler at the back of the building

Andrew Mankin recused himself.

MOTION: Jessica Dezieck to continue the public hearing until February 27, 2013 at

7:15pm

SECOND: David Shanahan

VOTE: 5-0, all in favor

7:45pm – SMA #0014 from Mr. & Mrs. Shoval at 164 Castle Hill Ave. for the installation of a new guest cabin in a SMA area. Representative Nick Andersen.

Nick Andersen reviewed the up-to-date plans with corrected square footage of 774 and abutter approval letters. Proposed work area delineated with straw waddle. Minimal effort to get into the site. Approximately 90 days for construction. In addition to proposal there is an accounting of all the work done at the site since the Shoval's bought the property. Nick Andersen reviewed the work done within the SMA area. No additional excavation. Bruce Gore asked about septic and Nick Andersen noted that existing facilities to be used.

Andrew Mankin commented that we had already permitted into the Scenic Mountain. We can permit ½ acre of disturbance. They are at about ¼ acre right now.

Jessica Dezieck asked about the 3 trees that were to come down.

David Vigneron from 166 Castle Hill Ave. objects to the trees coming down. Number of trees cut has exceeded expectation. Concerned about further use expanding.

Andrew Mankin noted that there is a zoning building permit issue that does not have to do with us. You may have to come back to us with an amendment if there are any changes to this. Nick Andersen said if there are any zoning changes we will be back.

Jessica Dezieck commented that we haven't seen the whole restoration area for a spring

growing season yet. Right now when you go around the lake you can see the house and don't particularly want to see the cabin.

Nick Andersen replied that the SMA was written for ridgelines and mountain slopes. The restoration was to restore the understory and the midstory. Andrew Mankin said he saw it in the fall and it looked good and it does take time to grow back.

Andrew Mankin said that we have an email from Bresia from Project Native that at the site visit for the COC there were trees that had come down in the wetlands and were asking permission to remove them. Andrew Mankin read the email. We need to do a better job to police these things in the wetlands. Andrew Mankin asked David Vigneron if machines were in the wetlands. David Vigneron said that he noticed a tree being felled that may have been 50 feet off lakeshore. Also saw a small vehicle in close proximity to the lake. Wondered if burning the invasives could have been implemented instead of chipped. Saw debris from the recovery of the blowdowns hand carried onto the Jezel property. About 2 cubic yards of evergreen with some invasives. Seeing that amount of debris secreted from the Shoal property onto the Jezel property was not great. David Shanahan noted this was a problem before. David Vigneron noted that he did walk down yesterday and it is still there. This is unneighborly. Jessica Dezieck said we did look for it on a site visit.

Andrew said there are two things going on here – good and bad. The restoration of the woods is good. The bad part is what we face with a lot of projects. Owners want a view and we have to be careful of the slow degradation. We need to tighten up the Scenic Mountain Act regulations. David Shanahan commented about when trees come out they were to be removed. Not chipped. This goes back to the original NOI. There is again an issue with debris being put on someone else's property. Unfortunate that they have come back with another project without these planting having a chance to grow.

Nick Andersen commented that there are wood chip paths and these may be chip piles for spring. Just speculation.

Bruce Gore noted that this is an SMA NOI and maybe some of these don't belong in the SMA NOI. The taking of the 3 trees could be remedied with replanting of 3 trees.

Andrew Mankin said likes the idea of replanting. Agent Sewell said we lost larger evergreens due to blowdown and suggested a replant of something lower growing for screening.

Nick Andersen said that there will not be an issue with that as part of the SMA. Andrew commented that there will be no other work in the wetlands. No allowable work within 100 foot buffer. They have no permit to do any work except to remove invasives.

Nick Andersen suggested to go to the site to see where the 5 shrubs should be planted. Bresia should be consulted on the species. David Shanahan noted that they should be foliage year round. Andrew Mankin said the intention of these plantings is for screening.

Agent Sewell said we may want to be specific about how the tree debris removal will take place.

MOTION: Jessica to close the public hearing

SECOND: Bruce Gore

VOTE: 6-0, all in favor

MOTION: Jennifer Connell to approval the SMA #14 on 164 Castle Hill Ave with the 30 conditions and the 5 plantings be included. Type to be decided at pre construction meeting. These plantings are intended for screening.

SECOND: Bruce Gore

VOTE: 4-2, in favor (David Shanahan and Jessica Dezieck opposed)

Miscellaneous:

1. Approve December minutes

MOTION: Jessica Dezieck to approve the December minutes.

SECOND: Jennifer Connell

VOTE: 4-0, all in favor: abstaining are David Shanahan and Bruce Gore

2. 237 Long Pond Update

Agent Sewell said an enforcement letter was sent. Will go early next week to take pictures to know that dock was removed. Andrew Mankin noted that once there are pictures we are done. A letter will go out saying they are relieved from the enforcement order.

3. Open Space and Rec. Plan

Chris Rembold will come to next meeting and plan should be read and reviewed. Will be good to have input.

4. Fairgrounds meeting notification

Agent Sewell said she will be sitting with new owners and Mark Stinson to begin the overview of the property. There will be Wetland issues and Natural Heritage and flood plain issues. The meeting will be Wednesday, January 30 at 11am. Andrew Mankin wanted them to make sure they understood the jurisdictional issues.

5. Lake Mansfield Update

Andrew Mankin noted that going forward it would be interesting to look at the idea of someone being hired part time to look after Lake Mansfield and the McAllister property. If we want to look at paying someone part time we need to have a good, drawn out program before bringing to the town. Explain the benefit. Jessica Dezieck said she will have the internship program drawn up by April.

6. McAllister update

Waiting for Mike Parsons to talk to Emily for update.

7. Other business
 - a. MASS DOT sent a certified letter for a meeting on January 28 for bridge replacement on Alford Road. Andrew Mankin said we should be a presence at the meeting. Agent Sewell said she will attend.
 - b. Another meeting will be held for 100 Bridge Street and Natural Heritage, also on Monday, January 28.
 - c. Massachusetts Conservation Conference coming up. Lisa Bozzuto will try to attend.

MOTION: Jessica Dezieck to close the public hearing at 8:53pm

SECOND: Bruce Gore

VOTE: 6-0, all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Kelley
Secretary