

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26 2017
6:30 P.M. – TOWN HALL
334 MAIN STREET**

PRESENT:

GAETAN LACHANCE
BILL BOYER
LISA BOZZUTO
JEFF COHEN
JESSICA DEZIECK
ANDREW MANKIN
DAVID SHANAHAN

SHEP EVANS – CONSERVATION AGENT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Gaetan LaChance called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

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 NHESP habitat and a 100 year flood plain. **Continued from August 28, 2013.** Update on progress.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin moved to continue **WPA NOI 167-0369** until the next meeting, **May 24, 2017**

SECOND: Jess Dezieck

VOTE: 7 -0

Discussion of wetland and other issues with Ethan Culleton of Flag Rock Farm LLC and Emily Stockman of Stockman Associates. Subject 6 Acre property is located on Park Street North in Housatonic with additional access from Grove Street and +/- 960 feet of Housatonic River Shoreline. Map 2 Lot 48A.

Emily Stockman, a wetland scientist, presented on behalf of Flag Rock Farm. An Order of Conditions was issued to an abutter of Flag Rock Farm as a result of an Enforcement Order. The Order of Conditions was not completed by the expiration date and left unfinished. Flag Rock Farm is requesting permission to continue the restoration plan of the expired Order of Conditions. Lisa Bozzuto asked Ms. Stockman if the restoration plan includes a tree replacement of a 1:1 ratio. Ms. Stockman said the 1:1 ratio is the minimum success rate they wish to achieve. Agent Evans suggested scheduling another site visit to gain a better understanding of the property.

MOTION: Jess Dezieck moved to schedule a site visit at Flag Rock Farm on May 17th at 3:30PM.

SECOND: Andrew Mankin

VOTE: 7 -0

Discussion of an Enforcement Order issued on March 4, 2016 pertaining to the clearing, including cutting and stockpiling whole trees and other woody debris and other alterations in Riverfront Area, Bordering Vegetated Wetland, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding and Estimated Habitat of rare Wildlife adjacent to the confluence of the Green and Housatonic Rivers, Map 38 Lot 44. Presentation by Marc Volk of Foresight Land Services with Atty. Phillip Heller and James Larkin, property owner.

David Shanahan disclosed that Marc Volk and Atty. Phillip Heller have previously provided professional services to him and his family.

Atty. Heller noted Great Barrington's Right to Farm Bylaw, he highlighted the Town's intention to preserve farming and help support farmers.

Marc Volk noted that the majority of what was cut on the site was silver maple.

Significant amounts of invasive species have grown in where the vegetation was cut. Jeff Cohen asked if the intention is to simultaneously remove the invasive species while restoration is taking place. Mr. Volk responded that there is still an ongoing discussion with the Larkin's and Natural Heritage regarding a feasible restoration plan. David Shanahan asked Mr. Volk if the intention was to replant species in a location where they would not impede farming and be cut down again. Mr. Volk clarified that this is definitely the intention. Marc Volk will present a preliminary restoration plan to the Commission at the next meeting. After reviewing the plan the Conservation Commission will set up a site visit. Agent Evans informed the Commission that the non-criminal ticket for \$300.00 issued to Mr. Larkin has been paid.

Miscellaneous matters.

- Agent Evans gave an update on the enforcement letters issued and violations that are ongoing and will possibly come before the Commission.
- **Citizen Speak time:** None.
- **Approval of Minutes** of the February 22nd and March 22nd Conservation Commission Meetings.

MOTION: Jess Dezieck moved to approve the February 22nd and March 22nd Meeting Minutes.

SECOND: Andrew Mankin

VOTE: 7-0

- Jeff Cohen requested that the Commission review the land use regulations for the McAllister Preserve. Mr. Cohen would like the Commission to continue the discussion of revising and amending the regulations at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Cohen noted that an immediate remedy should be to add better signage.

- **Adjournment:** On a motion made by Jess Dezieck, seconded by Andrew Mankin the meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM with a vote of 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Jurczyk
Recording Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Jurczyk', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

