

**HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**August 12, 2014**

*Approved at the 9/9/14 meeting*

PRESENT: Paul Alexanderson, Chair; Edwin Matuzsko; Paulette Kuzdeba; and Janice Stone, Conservation Staff.

**1. 7:05 PM Discussion** with Kestrel Land Trust about upcoming project off *Roosevelt Street*. Chris Volonte (Kestrel staff), Scott Jackson (Kestrel Board Member) and David Ziomek (Amherst Conservation Director) were present to discuss the project with the Commission. Mr. Ziomek explained that he has studied spadefoot toads for many years, especially in the Hadley area. They are only known to exist in a few areas, including in Hadley. One previous spadefoot toad site has been drained and farmed. He and Kestrel are interested in creating a new shallow pool habitat for them, and they have received a grant from the MA Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) to create two sites for spadefoot breeding, one of them on the Kestrel property off Roosevelt Street (North Maple?). The other is in Sunderland. Mr. Jackson explained that the Kestrel property is pretty much all wet meadow, and that converting a part of it to a shallow temporary pool for spadefoot toads will not change the wetland type. They are proposing to create a 12" deep depression in the back of the field, using an excavator and hand tools. It should only take one day, and they want to get it done early this fall. It is proposed to be an oval about 60' by 40' wide for a total of about 1900 square feet. Spadefoot toads have unpredictable breeding seasons, dependent on shallow temporary pools in fields flooding after a large storm event such as a hurricane. Edwin asked if they were going to bring these toads in. Mr. Ziomek stated he hoped the toads that are around the area will find it on their own. The juveniles disperse a long distance. Mr. Jackson explained that on-going agricultural activities are exempt from NHESP regulations, so the return of the toads should not cause problems for the neighboring farms. The toads love farm fields. Mr. Ziomek explained that the toad area is about Knightly Rd/Roosevelt St north to Sunderland. Mr. Jackson mentioned they were also planning on including in their Notice of Intent annual mowing of the field, to keep it from being overrun with shrubs (and purple loosestrife). They also want to do an herbicide treatment by a licensed applicator of the patch of phragmites near the road. Mr. Jackson stated he had spoken with DEP Circuit Rider Mark Stinson about what kind of filing and permitting was needed for this project. He said as long as it was BVW to BVW there was no need for replication. Edwin asked them to get rid of a pile of dirt in the NE corner that had been left there near the road when the ditches were cleaned out. Commission agreed to request to mow the field soon (possibly before site visit). Kestrel will be submitting the Notice of Intent within the week, and will do the legal notice etc for the next meeting.

**2. Other business.** Unfortunately the Commission was not able to get one more member to come to make a quorum, so no official business (public meetings and hearings) can be done tonight. Commission rescheduled their meeting to **August 26, 2014 at 7 PM**, with the same agenda and times. Sean Harrington from Nexamp asked the Commission if his company could stop the third party erosion and sediment control weekly report for their site on Mill Valley Road. It is costing over \$1000 for each report, and the site is now stable. They have hydro

seeded again the sparse areas. Commission told him if site was stable and vegetated they should remove the silt fence and the straw bales. Mr. Harrington agreed. Commission agreed that Nexamp staff could do the erosion and sediment control monitoring until the Certificate of Compliance is issued.

**3. 7:35 PM Adjournment.** Edwin made the motion to adjourn. Paulette seconded, all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by

*Janice Stone*

Materials used in review and deliberation of agenda items will be found in corresponding project folder in Conservation Commission office.