

Accepted at the March 1, 2007 meeting
**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

MINUTES
February 1, 2007
Memorial Hall, 3rd Floor, City Hall

Members Present: Edward Clancy-Chairman, Allan White, Lawrence Roy, John Skarin, Dennis Demers, Michele Higgins, Priscilla Ryder-Conservation Officer;
David Williams-arrived late

Absent: None

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of October 19, 2006, December 21, 2006 and January 4th & 18th, 2007 were reviewed and unanimously approved as written.

Discussion

- Ft. Meadow water level – DEP 212-949 Ms. Ryder presented an e-mail from Lee Thomson of the Ft. Meadow Commission requesting that the drawdown of Ft. Meadow Reservoir be extended until the edge of the ice has melted in order to reduce damage to walls and docks. Ms. Ryder provided the Commission page 7 of the report titled: Drawdown Evaluation for Ft. Meadow Reservoir, Final Report dated August 30, 1990. The report provides information regarding the need to close the spillway no later than March 1st to ensure that the lake is filled by summer. After some discussion the Commission voted unanimously 6-0 to allow for the drawdown to be extended to March 1st, rather than closing the spillway on Feb. 15th. They determined this was a minor change to the Order of Conditions and did not require a new public hearing. However, the Commission noted that the Hudson Conservation Commission must also concur. They also noted that if there is a drought and the lake level is not returned by the summer time, the Ft. Meadow Commission should carry the burden of this risk as they have made this request. Ms. Ryder will send a letter to the Ft. Meadow Commission.

Ms. Ryder noted that the Asian Clam spread is over the entire lake. She is working with the state and our local cable show to help spread the word about this non-native invasive that can wreak havoc on the lake. She will provide periodic updates as needed. Residents around the lake are still reporting findings of the clams.

- DEP 212-762 Villages @ Crane Meadow – Members from the Villages at Crane Meadow Condominium Association and Brian Card from F.C.M. were present. Chairman Clancy gave an overview of the site visit which was held on Saturday January 20th. He explained that the Commission tonight had two tasks to determine: (1) the best location for the remaining wetland replication and (2) to discuss the issues raised by the Association regarding the 20 foot buffer zone. The Commission discussed the location of the new proposed replication area behind the club house and next to the roadway retaining wall. Mr. Clancy asked whether the grading needed for the replication area would have any impact on the retaining wall. Mr. Card explained that he has looked at the construction and as-built drawings and confirmed that the excavation needed will have no impact on the wall. Ms. Higgins explained that she would like to see this on a plan and stamped by an engineer. Mr. Clancy added that the Commission and the Association simply needs reassurance the wall will be ok. There was some discussion as to whether a wall could be installed along the edge of the wetland, so the slopes are not so severe. Mr. White noted that a 3:1 slope would take up much more room than a wall. It was noted that Mr. Card would need to come in with his design and the Commission will review it, a 20 foot buffer zone around the new replication area would be required. Mr. Clancy asked each member if they agreed with this new replication location as the preferred location. All agreed.

The second issue to discuss was changes proposed by the Association to the 20 foot wetland buffer zone. Chairman Clancy, explained that he has reservations to making any changes to the Order of Condition requirements relative to the fencing and the 20 foot no disturb buffer zone. He explained that in his opinion the best approach would be to get the fences up as per plan, the replication area finished and allow Mr. Card to request a Certificate of Compliance for the work done per the Order. After all that is completed and a Certificate of Compliance issued, the Commission would consider at that time any requested changes from the Association. He explained that it is difficult to change the rules mid stream and he is not inclined to make such a move. The rest of the Commission agreed with Mr. Clancy.

Ms. Bannon the spokes person for the Association asked whether the Commission would make any consideration for fire safety egress and the fence issue. Ms. Ryder noted that the Building Inspector had noted the egress was sufficient. Ms. Bannon asked what the Association can ask for when they return after the Certificate of Compliance is issued? She asked if it would be an exercise in futility. Would the Association be able to get any relief on the 20 foot buffer zone? She also noted that the retaining wall has shifted, according to the engineer hired by the Association and the wetland replication area could affect this. The Commission noted that a detailed plan with grading would need to be submitted for the replication area as noted above.

Ms. Bannon also noted that behind Building #8 the soil around the boulders has eroded some and this should be stabilized. The Commission asked Mr. Card to look into this and correct it.

After some additional discussion, the Commission agreed to continue the meeting to the March 1st meeting in order for Mr. Card to submit a detailed grading plan for the replication area.

Public Hearings

Notice of Intent - The Marlborough Dept. of Public Works (DPW) requests a generic permit to allow on-going maintenance of streams and culverts throughout the city.

Dick Baldelli, from the DPW was present and explained his request to continue the current steam maintenance program through a generic permit, as done over the past five years. The program involves cutting brush along the edge of brooks to help keep the brooks free flowing and removing any fallen logs or brush within the brook. It also involves the removal of silt from culverts and headwalls where and when needed. The Commission asked questions about catch basin cleaning, and how the machinery will reach the brooks. After some discussion, the Commission asked that a map be generated showing the stream locations to be maintained and that this map should be provided to the Commission for the files and for easy reference. The Commission closed the hearing and voted 7-0 to issue an Order of Conditions. The same Order as issued previously under DEP 212-788 was approved with some minor amendments.

Notice of Intent (Continuation of Public Hearing)
431 Poirier Dr. (Marlborough High School)

At the City Engineer's request, this item was continued to the Feb. 15th meeting so the plans could be revised.

Certificates of Compliance

- DEP 212-203 84 Sheffield Terrace (Lot 95) – As this house was completed many years ago, the Commission voted unanimously to issue a partial Certificate of Compliance for this house only.

- DEP 212-802 Crowley Dr. – Since the as-built plans are still being reviewed by the City Engineer, this item was continued until that review is complete.

Dave Williams arrived

Correspondence/Other Business

The following correspondence was reviewed and the Commission voted to accept and place on file.

- Division of Fish & Wildlife - Beaver information dated Dec. 21, 2006
- Southboro Notice of Intent from Oxbow Associates RE: Parmenter Rd. Subdivision - FYI

Project Updates

- DEP 212-990 - NSTAR - Ms. Ryder noted that she had met on site with the NSTAR representative and the contractor to have erosion controls removed and to stabilize exposed areas. They agree to do this. Stabilization will occur in the Spring.
- DEP 212-955 - Maple St. pump station - Ms. Ryder noted that a temporary fix to extend one drainage pipe and stone the area has been completed. The area is stable. A new schedule and plan will be submitted in the Spring.

Adjournment - With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Ryder
Conservation Officer