

**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

February 3, 2011  
Memorial Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall  
Marlborough, MA 01752

**Members Present:** Edward Clancy-Chairman, David Williams, Lawrence Roy, Michelle Higgins, and Priscilla Ryder-Conservation Officer;

**Absent:** John Skarin, Dennis Demers, and Allan White,

**Approval of Minutes** - The minutes of March 18, 2010, October 14<sup>th</sup> and 21, 2010, November 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and December 16, 2010 were reviewed and the Commission unanimously voted to accept them as written.

**Public Hearing(s) – None**

**Discussion:**

- Flagg Brook Wildlife Management Area-Draft License Agreement discussion with Pat Huckery Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. - Ms. Ryder explained that Ms. Huckery was not able to make it this evening, but would come to the Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the license agreement. The Commission will discuss with Ms. Huckery the limits of hunting on the state owned property, what is reasonable for hunting and should it be limited to bow hunting etc. Mr. Williams suggested inviting the ward councilor to the meeting as well. Mr. Clancy asked if a larger version of the map could be provided for the meeting. This discussion was continued to the Feb. 17, 2011 meeting.
- The Desert Natural area – Discuss management options:
  - The Commission reviewed several letters and memos sent to them including:
  - E-mail chain from Priscilla Ryder to Laura Mattei on Dec. 23, 2010 RE: The Desert Natural Area.
  - Draft letter to abutters from Erin Snook SVT Community Outreach Coordinator
  - Citizen Science Turtle Survey of Memorial Forest – Volunteer Job Description Turtle Survey
  - E-mail chain from Bruce Osterling dated January 7, 2011 Subject: FW: SVT Coldwater stream summary.
  - Ms. Ryder noted that SVT has been granted an AmeriCorps Volunteer to work on outreach and environmental education, her name is Erin Snook. Ms. Snook will be doing some outreach at the SVT memorial forest and was wondering if the Marlborough Conservation Commission wanted to be included in this education effort. No funding is required for the city to participate. The Commission voted unanimously to participate in this educational and outreach component of this project, including participation in the turtle survey (if they want to extend it onto Marlborough property).

- Ms. Ryder also discussed the memo from Bruce Osterling; who is a member of Trouts Unlimited. They are looking for trout streams in this area that might need restoration to improve habitat. They did a walk with Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW) in November. The e-mail provides a summary from Alicia Norris Fisheries Biologist MDFW which summarizes her observations of both Cranberry Brook and Trout Brook. Cranberry Brook has not previously been sampled by MDFW, so they anticipate doing some additional survey of this stream in the summer of 2011. Based on the summer survey they will look at:
  - Low-Flow Assessment of Weir Structures- Because fish survey work occurs during summer low-flow periods, we will take this opportunity to observe and assess the weir structures and their potential as barriers to fish passage.
  - Other- Based on observations and discussion from our first site visit, some topics for additional discussion include:
    - Large wood addition and coldwater habitat relative to weir structure removal
    - Development of BMPs for coldwater streams at pipeline right-of-way crossing
    - Beaver population benefits, trade-offs, and possible management strategies

There will be another walk once the snow melts to evaluate the streams some more. Ms. Ryder will let the Commission know when that will take place if others want to join.

- “2010 Aquatic Vegetation Management Program - Monitoring and Management Recommendations Ft. Meadow Reservoir – prepared by: Aquatic Control Technology, Inc.” The Commission reviewed the report and recommendations for further treatment for the coming year. They will wait to hear from the Ft. Meadow Commission on what is anticipated and what recommendation they wish to follow.
- MACC – Edward Clancy awarded the annual Environmental Service Awards. Some Commission members indicated they would be able to attend the ceremony on March 5<sup>th</sup> at Holy Cross in Worcester. Ms. Ryder will poll the rest of the members to see who wants to attend.

#### **Correspondence/Other Business**

- Letter to Todd Lyons, dated Dec. 17, 2010, RE: Wetland Violation-DEP 212-1016, Fine \$100; Cook Lane Subdivision-Mauro Farm.- The Commission voted to accept and place on file. Ms. Ryder indicated that the consultant working on this project will be providing some additional information about the floc/polymer being used, so there is a better understanding of the controls needed before spring comes.
- Tara Mitchell (DOT) dated Jan. 10, 2011, RE: Poison Ivy Location – YOP MAP - The Commission reviewed and voted unanimously to approve this request to allow for treatment of

poison ivy along Rte. 20 at the I-495 over pass, and the treatment of the invasive plant Pepper weed on the 290 westbound right before Exit 25.

- Letter from Dept. of the Army, dated Jan. 11, 2011 RE: Military Munitions Response Program, Site-AEDB-R#: MAHQ-003-R-01, Shaughnessy's Farm Rifle Range. Ms. Ryder indicated she had called the Army on this to find out what they are looking for. Apparently there was a National Army Reserve unit that used this property for a rifle range during World War I training events. The Army is required to check all these sites to see if there is excessive lead in the soil, and if so clean it up. They will be doing the investigations in the spring. The Mayor granted permission.
- Snow disposal guidance – MassDep - Ms. Ryder provided the Commission with the state guidance on snow disposal. No disposal is permitted in or near wetlands, unless there is an emergency at which time the Commission needs to provide permission at the local level.

### **Project Updates**

- Indian Hill Open Space Review - Ms. Ryder said that as part of the Target site opening, the City Council Special Permit condition requires the protection of the top of the hill. Ms. Ryder indicated she's been working with City Solicitor Rider and Tom Cullen from the DPW on getting the land transfer documents submitted by the Fafard Co. It is almost done. A deed was to have been provided today, but didn't arrive. Ms. Ryder explained the limit of the land to be deeded to the city for conservation purposes which includes the slope behind Target and the wooded hill on the top as well as the new parking lot area for people wanting to walk up the hill. The Commission also discussed whether they would ever consider adding a cell tower to the top of the hill. After some discussion the Commission determined that the cell tower would not be compatible with the conservation and "preserve all open space" requirement of the Special Permit, so suggested this not be considered in any land transfer deal. This land transfer document need to be submitted to City Council for their Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and then have a final vote on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>. Given the tight time frame the Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council that this hill be accepted for Conservation purposes as is required in the Special Permit requirements for the Indian Hill development.

### **Meetings**

- Next Conservation Commission meetings – February 17<sup>th</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 (Thursdays).

**Adjournment** - There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Ryder  
Conservation