

**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes
January 17, 2013 (Thursday)
Marlborough City Hall – 3rd Floor, Memorial Hall
7:00 PM**

Members Present: - Edward Clancy Chairman, John Skarin, Dennis Demers, Dave Williams, Lawrence Roy, Allan White

Absent: Michele Higgins

Approval of Minutes: The Commission reviewed and voted 6-0 to unanimously approve as written the minutes of February 2nd, Feb. 16th, 2012 and March 15, 2012

Draft Order of Conditions

- 706 Hosmer St. – Memorial Beach – DEP 212-1103
The Commission reviewed the draft Order of Conditions and corrected a few typos and errors. The Commission voted 6-0 to approve the Order of Conditions as written and amended.

Discussion:

- Flagg Swamp – State Division of Fishery and Wildlife – discuss use policy for city land adjacent to state land.

Ms. Ryder explained that she met at the Flagg Swamp property with Pat Huckery of the DFW on January 4th to discuss trail layout etc. However, Ms. Huckery explained that the State Division of Fishery and Wildlife (DFW) have decided NOT to make any formal trails, bridges or other amenities. They would like the land to be left more natural and un-maintained. Several hunters have used the site this past year and have enjoyed the property as it is. By formalizing a trail system and encouraging more people to walk the area, it may detract from the wildlife habitat and hunting capabilities which DFW is trying to promote. Therefore, she has suggested the kiosk that was constructed just have information about DFW and a map, but not much more. Ms. Ryder had discussed having a neighborhood meeting to explain to all the abutters what the rules are and to get their input on safety. Posting the safety zone was also discussed with her.

The Commission noted that there are two parcels of abutting conservation land. Ms. Ryder asked how these should be treated. It was agreed that Ms. Ryder will talk to Police Chief Leonard about the property given the new direction being taken by DFW. Mr. White wanted to be on record that he is opposed to having hunting on the DFW land or city land since it is in a very close to residences and he does not believe it is safe to have hunters and walkers on these properties at the same time. The Commission asked that this be placed on the next agenda and discussed after input from the Police Chief is provided.

- U.S. Dept. of Agriculture – insect trapping on conservation land.
 - The Commission reviewed an e-mail to Ms. Ryder from Kenneth Divito in the US Dept. of Agriculture. Mr. Clancy said he read the e-mail and had no problem giving permission to the USDA to put up traps to see if they find any exotic insects. The Commission voted unanimously 6-0 to allow this trapping.

Correspondence/Other Business:

- Dog issues on Conservation Land - Ms. Ryder reported that she has received several complaints from walkers and users of the Felton and Desert Conservation Lands that professional dog walkers sometimes with 6-8 dogs are bringing the dogs on the property and letting them run free off leash. Conflicts with people and horses and other dogs that are on leash have been a problem. Ms. Ryder has been in contact with the new Animal Control Officer who has been visiting these sites and talking to dog walkers about the leash law. He has not yet encountered the professional dog walkers, but will continue to visit these sites to see if he can talk to them.
- DPW projects – Kirby St. reconstruction and Maple St. water line. Ms. Ryder said the DPW will be submitting applications for both these projects and wanted to know if they can file a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for this work. The Commission determined since all work was being done within the roadway layout, that an RDA would be sufficient. Ms. Ryder will inform the DPW.
- Project updates on Mauro Farm, Toll Brothers were discussed – both sites appear under control, but weekly inspections are still required.

Violation:

- DEP 212-1086 Letter dated, Jan. 9, 2013, RE: Wetland Violation Notice, Easterly Waste Water Treatment Plan Improvements. The Commission reviewed this letter and approved it.

Meetings: Next Conservation Commission meetings – Feb. 7th and Feb. 21st, 2013.

Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Ryder
Conservation Officer