

**MILLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Room 206, Veterans Memorial Building, 900 Main St., Millis, MA
March 5, 2012**

The meeting was brought to order at 7:30 p.m. by Dr. Lederer, Chair.

The following members were present:

Dr. James Lederer, Chair

Ed Chisholm, Christine Gavin, Cara Krinsky, Daniel Lee, Anne Rich

Members Absent: Loretta Fitzgerald

Others present: Raymond Capobianco, 18 Columbia St., Wellesley
Paul Marier, 6 Beechwood Ln., Franklin
Mark Coviello, 115 Hill St., Holliston

Informal Discussion

Fin, Fur & Feather Club

100 Larch Rd.

Paul Marier

Mr. Marier, representing the Club, presented a letter, dated February 20, 2012, and provided background information on the club property. Mr. Marier stated that meetings had been held with Merlon Bassett of the Army Corps of Engineers, and representatives from the Dept. of Agriculture, Soil & Erosion Division. There are two issues facing the Club, Mr. Marier said: (1) erosion of land between the Charles River and the man-made pond on the property and (2) lowering the depth of the man-made pond. According to Mr. Marier, before they proceed with formalizing any plans, it was recommended that they discuss the issues with the Commission first.

Mr. Marier stated that if nothing is done to divert the flow of the Charles River from directly hitting the bank within an undetermined period of time, the River will breach the pond. The club would also like to lower the depth of the pond and re-deposit the fill back into the northern end of the pond, reinforcing the area between the Charles River and the pond.

Mr. Marier said that the ACOE and Dept. of Natural Resources Conservation Services are willing to provide resources to study the situation and propose potential plans to address the pond erosion issue, should the Commission allow it.

The Commission was of the opinion that they would be willing to work with the Club in pursuit of resolving these issues and a Notice of Intent would need to be filed for the work when a plan is completed. DEP would most likely need to be involved as well for permission to divert the flow of the Charles River. Mr. Marier stated the application would be filed when they are ready to proceed.

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Informal Discussion

Ridge Street (Map 15 Lot 8)

Mark Coviello

Mr. Coviello stated that he had placed an offer of a parcel of property for sale at the corner of Ridge and Causeway Streets. He said it is approximately 2 ½ acres and they would like to build a single family home. A wetland area bisects the middle of the property. Mr. Coviello would like to build the home with a small driveway crossing through the wetland. According to Mr. Coviello, before he enters into a Purchase and Sale Agreement, he would like an informal opinion from the Commission as to whether this type of construction would be allowed.

The Commission discussed various options/ideas for the driveway crossing (bridge structure; headwalls; piping), as that would be their major concern. The Commission would not want the wetland to be “cut off by accidental means” when the driveway goes through. Mr. Coviello stated that they would put a culvert through/under the driveway crossing. The Commission was of the opinion that constructing a single family home would not be an issue.

Mr. Coviello stated that he understands a Notice of Intent would be required to be filed should he proceed with the purchase of the property.

New Business:

FIRM Bylaw Amendments

The Commission reviewed the proposed article for the bylaw amendments to reference the new FIRM/FEMA flood maps and study. The public hearing before the Planning Board is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2012.

Other Business:

Braun Land

Discussion

The Commission reviewed an email from member Loretta Fitzgerald, dated February 27, 2012. At a recent Selectmen’s meeting, the purchase of the Braun land was discussed and the Community Preservation Committee is no longer interested in purchasing the property with CPA funds as they felt the price of \$35,000.00 was too high.

The Commission discussed the issue and all were of the opinion that the amount was too high to purchase the property, which is in the 100-year flood plain. Also, there were questions as to how the Commission could fund the maintenance/oversight of the property. On a motion made by Mr. Chisholm, seconded by Mr. Lee, it was voted unanimously (6-0) that the Commission does not recommend that the Town purchase the land.

