

**STURBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes for Thursday, January 9, 2003**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

J. Hoffman, D. Barnicle, E. Goodwin, J. Michalek  
7:00 PM

**MINUTES**

Tabled to January 16, 2003

**CPA UPDATE, E. GOODWIN**

Tabled to January 16, 2003

**CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW** –

Correspondence reviewed included: An invitation to a reception by R. Hillman for Governor Romney; Correspondence from New England Environmental regarding a change in address and services; A memo outlining the Dialogue on the Future meeting from December, 9; A memo noting the new Science and Government website; Mass Wildlife News.

The SCC reviewed the final report regarding the diesel fuel release on I-84. Everything seems in order; the impact was minimal with less than 1 cubic yard of soil removed in total. No residual contamination was reported.

**DISCUSSION OF NEW INFORMATION** –

M. Marcus of New England Environmental attended to discuss the content of the scope of work needed by SCC to review the 40B, comprehensive permit application before the ZBA. A. Allen of EcoTec had been scheduled to attend also. He had recused himself as a consultant as his company felt participation could potentially be viewed as a conflict of interest. They had completed a study and submitted a report to Cullinan Engineering for the same property.

The SCC and M. Marcus held a lengthy discussion reviewing the data submitted, the site layout, site visit observations, wetland and perennial stream features, concerns regarding potential wetland impacts, habitat issues, concerns the SCC had with long term impacts to the resource areas, concerns regarding impacts from various aspects of the proposal not completely outlined and described (including retaining walls, slopes etc.).

Following the meeting with M. Marcus, the SCC drafted a letter to the ZBA regarding Environmental Reports conducted for the applicant. The content of the letter is as follows:

Dear ZBA Members,

As requested at the Zoning Board hearing, held on Wednesday, January 8, the SCC had intended to have both M. Marcus of New England Environmental and A. Allen of EcoTec, Inc., represent the commission as consultants. A. Allen of EcoTec has informed the commission that there may be a conflict of interest due to work they had previously done on this specific parcel of land. They have withdrawn their agreement to act as consultants representing the SCC.

In an effort to reduce the possibility of redundancy in reviews, as requested by the applicants lawyer, Attorney Netter, the SCC is asking for copies of any reports that may have been developed by EcoTec for the property owner, developer or representative, for the property on which Stallion Hill Village is proposed to be located.

The Commission would appreciate your forwarding this request to the applicants.

Sincerely  
The Sturbridge Conservation Commission

**OLD BUSINESS –**

Permits were reviewed, approved and signed for; Ying for 446 Main Street, Sanderson for 94 Paradise Lane, Harrington Hospital and Keenan for 118 Main Street and Green Hill Engineering for 225 Brookfield Road.

The SCC reviewed the gant chart submitted for the Preserve. D. Barnicle stated that there were no dates on the phasing plan. He felt there should be anticipated dates, by month at least. N. Ryder stated that C. McGregor was unable to attend the meeting but had addressed that with her. He noted that he did not include dates as the schedule frequently changed based on weather, ground conditions and marketability. He was concerned that if he had specific dates, he would be held to them regardless of other mitigating factors. After lengthy discussion the SCC agreed the best plan of monitoring would be to select two days per month for inspection of each subdivision. These dates will be posted to the contractors. J. Michalek and E. Goodwin noted that they were the inspectors for the Preserve and arranged to conduct site visits with C. McGregor on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at 1:00. Allen Homestead will be reviewed in a similar fashion. D. Barnicle and J. Hoffman will arrange a similar schedule for Sanctuary and Highlands when they begin. N. Ryder and D. Mitchell review Draper Woods and Whittemore when work starts.

The bond issue for the Preserve is still before DPW no release of lots will be given until a bond is posted with the Planning Board.

The SCC discussed the Grand Trunk Trail off Farquhar Road additionally. J. Michalek and E. Goodwin noted that on further review a bridge style walk the entire length of the trail by the Vernal Pools may be an approvable alternative. D. Barnicle noted that if the trails remained as presented to the Commission, he would not give approval. If however, a controlled, educational walk for the public could be created on the site, with the help of ACE and Opacum, he would be willing to reconsider.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The MACC course outline for the annual conference was reviewed and discussed. The SCC members will all attend and selected courses. As there are many new courses to cover this year, each member will take a different course and outline the content and discussion to the Commission at the 3/6 meeting.

Reports of filling of wetlands behind Sturbridge Service Center were made to the SCC. A site visit will be conducted to investigate. Similar reports have been made in the past and investigated. No violations have been found.

The draft of the 2002 annual report for the Commission was reviewed, amended, and approved by unanimous vote.

J. Hoffman attended the Personnel committee meeting. He noted that the job description written by the Commission had already been approved. He stated that J. Malloy had informed him that N. Ryder had not requested any additional hours despite the SCC opinion that more hours were needed. N. Ryder agreed that was correct.

The final budget request had been reviewed prior to the meeting. No additional changes were made. The budget was approved by unanimous vote.

### **LETTER PERMITS**

Tabled due to snow cover. Site visits will be conducted as soon as ground conditions permit.

### **CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE**

Tabled due to snow cover. Site visits will be conducted as soon as ground conditions permit. Letters will be sent to applicants noting this.

**Motion to adjourn by unanimous vote, 10:00 PM.**