

STURBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 7th, 2013

Meeting held at the Sturbridge Center Office Building 301 Main Street, 2nd floor

7:00 p.m. Open Meeting-Quorum check

Members present: Dave Barnicle, Chairman, Ed Goodwin, Donna Grehl, Calvin Montigny and Joe Kowalski.

Members absent: None

Also Present: L.S. Jalbert and Tom Chamberland.

Committee Updates

CPA, SLAC, Trails Committee(TC), Trails Master Plan Steering Committee(TMPSC):

- DG stated SLAC met and they are working with the BOS regarding dock regulations.
- EG stated CPA met Monday night and signed off on their Annual Report. EG stated \$8600.00 will be used for Cemetery repairs.
- DB stated there was an informal meeting last week for “Friends of Trail” which 30 people attended and signed up to volunteer. DB stated TC meets next week.

Walk-ins: DEP #300-841- 94 Paradise Lane:

- LJ stated he is here for a revision to DEP #300-841 for a proposal to drill 2 recirculating geo-thermal wells installed in front (lakeside) of 94 Paradise Lane 21’ apart for heating and cooling. These wells are located within the approved work limit area.
- CM asked about siltation during installation of the wells.
- LJ stated this proposal still needs BOH approval but a dewatering area is proposed surrounded by hay bales.
- DG asked about maintenance of the wells.
- LJ stated there is a maintenance contract under Southbridge Tire who are Certified Installers.

Consensus by the Commission to approve the revision for DEP # 300-841.

Request for Certificate of Compliance:

300-471- (The Preserve) 9 Audubon Way (Encroachment into easement, review subdivision plans):

- GC stated he did a site visit and the fence that runs along the side yard at 9 Audubon Way is within the easement and the owner has agreed to remove the fence.
- DB suggested Bollards indicating the line of demarcation. The agent agreed, but other commissioners did not think they were necessary.

- EG suggested the homeowner remove the fence and refrain from mowing the easement.
- CM agrees with EG.

Consensus by the Commission that there are to be no markers and the Agent will send a letter to the homeowner to stop mowing to allow the area return to its natural state.

- EG suggested holding off on the COC until the area is brought into compliance with the conditions of the conservation easement.

138 Lake Road-Tree Removal:

- GC stated this is a request for a tree removal at 138 Lake Road along the shore line. The tree is in poor condition and leaning over the dock. GC showed pictures submitted by the applicant showing the poor condition of the tree.
- JK agreed with GC to remove the tree.
- CM asked about removal of the stump.
- GC suggested that **not removing** the stump can be part of the conditions.

Consensus by the Commission to remove the tree with no stump removal.

Public Hearings-None.

Discussions

Erosion Controls at 31 South Shore Drive:

- GC stated Gary Allard called regarding the installation of erosion controls on his property. GC stated he will do a site visit.

Consensus by the Commission to approve the installment of erosion controls at 31 South Shore Drive provided they are installed on his property and do not create flooding on neighboring property.

Trail maintenance and construction projects on Conservation Commission lands in 2013:

- Discussion with Tom Chamberland and the Commission regarding trail maintenance and ABA compliant adjustments on the Pond Loop trail.
- GC stated a concern in regards to the WHIP field at Hein's Farm and a suggestion was made by GC to relocate the trail out of the field so that walkers will not interfere with or disturb nesting birds.
- DB asked about the ABA adjustments on a section of the Stafford Turnpike trail.
- TC stated a section of the Stafford Turnpike trail is 12% side grade which there is discussion to bring that section to a 5% grade to be within the ABA guidelines.
- Discussion by the Commission regarding sign pollution.

Walker Pond Road cutting operation:

- GC stated he has received complaints regarding the cutting operation on Walker Pond Road. GC stated his initial site visit everything looked fine until DB did a site visit a few days later. GC stated there are 3-4 log stubs in the wetland at the landing, a white pine accidently fell into the wetland that wasn't fully cleared out,

there is about 75' of BVW unprotected at the wetland crossing, the haul route is a sea of mud. GC stated the Harvester has pulled out with the job not completed but will need to come back to spread some conservation mix to stabilize the soils. GC stated in the logging plan NH&ESP required that at least 2 of the largest trees for each acre were to be left in place which did not appear to have happened. GC asked the Commission if they approved of the letter he drafted to send out to the homeowner, Harvester and State Forester regarding the concerns with the project.

- DB stated the trees by the house are gone and suggested that cease and desist signs be put up. DB suggested that GC speak with the TA tomorrow regarding the bond before the money is returned to the forester.

Mt. Dan Road Conditions:

- GC stated he did a site visit and observed the poor condition of Mt. Dan Road leading to 62 Mt. Dan construction site. GC stated some stone was put down by the contractor in an effort to improve the road condition. The increased year round traffic and construction traffic has created muddy conditions on the private road.

Cumberland Farms off site mitigation suggestions, including culvert removal at Hein's Farm:

- GC stated he met with Paul Dewart, the Environmental Scientist and the project manager for Cumberland Farms and they are looking at a possible culvert removal at Hein's Farm and possibly putting money in a dedicated bank account for off-site mitigation projects to compensate for loss of bank at the Main Street location.
- EG stated the Commission hasn't been presented with a plan yet.
- GC asked if the Commission knew of any other sites suitable for a mitigation project.

Hein's Farm nest boxes:

- GC stated he relocated 6 Bluebird boxes at Hein's Farm with the help of high school interns Davis Markham and Ben Robinson. Other boxes were cleaned and repaired. GC said bluebirds immediately investigated the newly placed nest boxes.

MACC Conference:

- Discussion from the Commission regarding the MACC Conference this past Saturday.

MOTION: By DG, seconded by EG to adjourn @ 8:48 p.m.

Vote: 5/0.

A copy of the DVD from tonight's meeting is available upon request if needed from the Audio Department @ 508-347-7267.