

STURBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 2nd, 2013

Sturbridge Center Office Building
301 Main Street, 2nd Floor

7:00 p.m. Open Meeting
Quorum check

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

Members absent: None.

Also Present: Glenn Colburn Conservation Agent, Seth Lajoie, Tom Chamberland and John Elliott.

Walk-ins: 94 Paradise Lane-Alan Peppel- Tree Removal:

- Alan Peppel (not signed in) stated he has a tree on his property that is damaged and leaning and submitted a tree removal request to the Conservation Office this past Tuesday.
- JK stated his opinion is the proposed tree to be removed has a damaged crown and is leaning towards the water. JK suggested some mitigation.
- CM stated the tree provides good shade to the water and shoreline, is leaning in the direction of the water and suggested planting 4 trees as mitigation if removed.
- EG agreed with CM and stated if the tree is removed it would cause impact to the lake.
- DG stated the crown is healthy and it's leaning towards the lake and sees no reason to remove.
- DB asked if AP would be amenable to planting trees.
- AP agreed to plantings as mitigation.

MOTION: By JK, seconded by EG to approve the tree removal request for the pine tree and replant 4 conifer trees 8-10' tall.

Discussion:

- EG asked what the applicant would like to plant as mitigation.
- AP stated he would like to plant ornamental trees.
- EG suggested 4 trees of significant size.

Amendment: JK amended the Motion to read planting 4 trees of significant size determined by the applicant and submitted to GC.

- CM asked if the stump is proposed to be removed.
- DB stated the stump is not proposed to be removed.

- GC stated there are birch trees and shrubs in the 25' that are to remain in place.

96 Paradise Lane-Nancy Allen:

- GC asked the Commission where and what type of tree they suggest planting as mitigation for the tree that was previously approved for removal at 96 Paradise Lane.

MOTION: By CM, seconded by EG to approve planting a shade tree on 96 Paradise Lane to replace the previously approved tree removal.

Vote: 5/0.

Committee Updates

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

- EG stated there was no CPA meeting.
- DB stated TC meets next week.
- DG stated there was no SLAC meeting.

Approval of Minutes: April 4th, 2013 and April 18th, 2013.

MOTION: By EG, seconded by JK to approve the April 4th, 2013 minutes.

Vote: 5/0.

MOTION: By DG, seconded by JK to approve the April 18th, 2013 minutes with DG's correction of DEP #300-881 of proposed tree cutting **up** to the 25'.

Vote: 5/0.

Enforcement

3 Cherry Brook Circle-Ed Paquette; Restoration plan, etc. due 5/2 per EO:

- EP submitted and discussed his restoration plan with the Commission.

MOTION: By DG, seconded by CM to approve the restoration plan for DEP #300-837.

Vote: 5/0.

- GC stated a deed notation was suggested at the last meeting and read the suggested wording into the record.

67 Allen Road-T. Kane; work in BVW and buffer zone:

- GC stated he and DG went on a site visit and this enforcement is for cutting in the BVW. GC stated there are three brush piles consisting of lawn waste, leaves and limbs in the BVW.
- EG suggested that the debris be removed by hand and trucked off site professionally.
- DG suggested the work be done by hand also.

MOTION: By EG, seconded by JK to require the homeowner to remove the debris entirely in the BVW by hand.

- JK suggested a planting of 5-6 low growing shrubs in the area between the garage and road to define a border.
- CM suggested planting a red maple in the large opening.

Amendment: To include the suggestions by JK and CM.

Vote: 5/0.

- DB asked if the Commission should indicate that the homeowner is in violation of the WPA.
- EG doesn't see the need to.
- JK is indifferent.
- CM suggested fining.
- DG agreed with CM.

7:30 p.m. Public Hearing: NOI #300-881 96 Allen Road, John Elliot. (con't. from 4/18) Construction of a single family house and septic system within the buffer zone:

- Seth Lajoie showed the Commission the revised plan and stated he is proposing tree cutting outside of the 50' buffer zone with a 90' corridor and some lawn area out of the 100' buffer zone but within the 200'. SL stated a temporary dock has been approved by the BOS. SL discussed the grading and stated there is a step down proposed in the foundation with a walk out basement. The elevation drop from the road is 12'.
- DG asked that the lawn area be marked.
- JK asked if the stumps are proposed to be removed in the 50'-100'.
- GC stated the stumps are proposed to be ground and kept in place. GC suggested vista pruning as opposed to tree cutting.
- DG asked about drainage.
- SL stated a rip rap swale is proposed for drainage.
- DB suggested a rain garden for the lower end with something on the upper end also.
- DG stated if rip rap is proposed by the foundation drain outlet it needs to be put on the plan.
- DB suggested a stone drip strip 1' wide with 12-14" deep of pea stone.
- DG asked if a patio is proposed under the proposed porch.
- John Elliot, the homeowner stated a patio is proposed under the proposed porch using pavers.
- DB stated a revised plan will need to be submitted.
- JE asked that he be notified of the time of site visit so he can attend with the Commission and the Agent.

Public Hearing continued to 5/16 @ 7:30 p.m.

Enforcement

9 Audubon Way-V. Matheson; easement encroachment:

- GC stated he has yet to receive the planting plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Open Space Update

Work on Conservation Land-review proposed work on Leadmine Mountain:

- Discussion amongst the Commission and Tom Chamberland regarding the previously approved projects by the Commission and projects yet to be approved by the Commission for the Trails Committee.
- GC stated there are multiple projects proposed to be done this summer by the TC and asked that more information be provided to the Commission in regards to what the TC is doing on specific projects.
- Discussion regarding signage and relocation of trails.
- EG suggested using a smaller pipe on the West Ridge Trail at crossing C in which a 3' diameter 16' long pipe with 1' in the ground was previously approved.
- DB suggested reducing the pipe to a 15" corrugated pipe which would use less fill to cover the pipe.
- Discussion regarding the removal of stones and smoothing of the trails.
- Discussion regarding the desire by the Commission to open the cart road (even temporarily) that links Arbutus Park Trail with the West Ridge Trail.
- TC stated he doesn't feel the above mentioned trail would be sustainable.
- Discussion regarding a site visit to view the relocation and work areas on the Red and Blue Trails.
- Discussion regarding the Blue and White trails in regards to relocation of trails necessitated by the tornado in June 2011, trails going thru wetlands, signage and a bog bridge.

CR and baseline study on four parcels of CPA lands:

- GC stated he received a call from Town Council Robert Levitt stating that he is preparing a CR on 4 parcels of land; The Hein's, Shepard, Long Pond and the River Lands. Charles Eiseman, botanist is working on the baseline study and report.

OLD BUSINESS

240 Roy Rd. requested to file an RDA for an addition in the buffer zone:

- GC stated he has not received anything for this project yet.

43 Old Mashapaug Road-gift of land:

- GC stated the vote by the BOS for approval of 43 Old Mashapaug is scheduled for this Monday.

Correspondence

144 and 146 Lake Rd. John Argitis-residential dock permit notification:

- GC stated JA is seeking a permit from the State for a permanent dock permit @ 144 and 146 Lake Road.

SITE VISIT SCHEDULE

Site visit by the Commission scheduled for 96 Allen Road May 9th, 2013 @ 3 p.m.

MOTION: By EG, seconded by CM to adjourn @ 9:40 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.