TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday, September 4, 2014 Sturbridge Center Office Building, 2nd Floor

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00 – 6:45 pm By Law Review; working session for Commissioners

6:45 - 7:00 pm Recess

7:00 pm Reconvene Meeting for Regular Business

Quorum Check: Confirmed

Members Present: Ed Goodwin (EG), Chairman Members Absent: David Barnicle (DB), Vice Chair

Donna M. Grehl (DG) Joseph Kowalski (JK)

Calvin Montigny (CM)

Others Present: Glenn Colburn (CG), Conservation Agent

Cindy Sowa Forgit, Conservation Clerk

Applicants and/or Audience Members: Tom Liro, John Radner, Christopher Mazeska, Betsy

Calvert, Terri Ricard and Gary Malone

Committee Updates:

• **CPA – (EG)** An update from the Trustee for Public Land Use regarding the Plimpton property, a 300 acre parcel being sold for 1.5 million. There is a US Forest Service Grant of \$343K and a Municipal Reimbursement Grant for \$400K, but the town must provide the additional funding if they are interested in this land. Darcie Scholfield is trying to get funds from Fish and Wildlife and other avenues as we can't spend towns' money at this time. She has also tentatively scheduled "Public Viewing: Walk the Land" on 9/20 and 10/4.

- Trail Committee (DB) No update.
- Lakes Advisory Committee (DG) Water tests have come back, can contact Glenn for data as not posted on line.

Approval of Minutes: August 21, 2014 – not available for review, to discuss at the next meeting.

Walk-Ins:

93 Shore Road, DEP#300-894, Leonard Jalbert to discuss a change in plan. Not present to discuss.

Public Hearings:

7:00 Notice of Intent DEP #300-908, 69 Route 84, (DPW fields), Parks & Recreation. (cont. from 8/21) Construction of recreational fields in Riverfront Area and Flood Zone A. Requested a continuation to the next meeting due to a turtle habitat survey in process.

- 7:30 Notice of Intent DEP #300-904, 158 Lane Eight, Carl Nielsen. (cont from 8/21) Construction of over-hanging deck, shoreline retaining wall, and stormwater improvements on the bank and buffer zone to Quacumquasit Pond. (Need a quorum DG have to recuse as she is an abutter. Requested to be continued to the next meeting on 9/18.
- **7:45 Request for Determination of Applicability, 39 Draper Woods Rd, Brian Milam** In-ground pool in the buffer zone. (cont from 8/21) Requested to continue to the next meeting on 9/18.
- **8:00** Request for Determination of Applicability, 140 Lake Road, John Radner. Installation of a foundation drain in the buffer zone. (cont. from 7/10 & 8/21/14) We asked for a plan showing the location of the subfloor foundation drain pipes. **Documents Submitted:** Drainage Plan. Double coated with fabric and then with pea stone. New dry well put in. Stone is not filled in the basement as was told to stop working. The front yard was completed at time of site visit. A 4" pipe with black suction pipe is used to wash boats. DG: Any water ends up in the lake? JR: No. GC: There are no drains in the cellar and no outside pollution. I'm fine with plan.

Motion: To close the public hearing and issue a Positive #5 for work in the Buffer Zone that is subject to the Town Bylaw and to issue a Negative #3 for work in the Buffer Zone that is subject to the WPA: DG 2nd: CM Discussion: What work is going on across the street for parking area. JR: Not my property. Vote: 3-0

8:15 Notice of Intent DEP #300-897, 21 New Boston Road. (cont. from 4.17.14) Proposed hotel development. Requested to be continued to the 11/6 meeting.

Old Business – Not discussed New Business – Not discussed

Request for Certificate of Compliance

- 14 Birch Street, Evelyn Condelli Sullivan DEP#300-811 Requested to be continued to the next meeting on 9/18.
- 146 Lane Eight, Lynne Eckhert, Louis Fazen DEP#300-886. Site visit conducted. The area looks stable. The deck she was given an OOC for was denied by ZBA as it was too close to the setback. Since there is no deck to be installed now, the commission is requesting a revised plan showing this change. Will then sign the document upon receipt of the new plan.
- 6 Hunter Lane, Richard Harper, DEP#300-470 SF home Sanctuary Partial certificate. Signatures received.

Minor Amendments to Orders of Conditions

100 Allen Road, Christopher Mazeika DEP#300-779. Requesting a change in the plan to allow pavement of driveway in 100′ buffer zone.

Documents Received: Drainage Plan.

The applicant is submitting a plan now showing the stone lined swales for drainage along his proposed paved driveway. CM: The slope is 14% grade (the red area) and you're proposing a 3x3 trench (swale) filled with crush ¾" stone. The applicant is going to plant blueberry and raspberry shrubs. Along carport: there is an existing drainage pipe that runs from a proposed valley in the pavement along the enhanced stone (existing) trench. DG: Where does the run off go? CM: It runs down and fills the existing stone trench and discharges into stone by the garage. I'm proposing another rock lined (4" stone) swale along the long portion. The 12% grade area of the driveway near the house is narrow due to the septic line.

Agent Briefing: This is an acceptable plan, with both swales emptying through a natural vegetation area. This plan will allow for proper storm water management. DG: Water can't discharge onto other's property, near garage area. GC: Feels most water will stay on the property due to contours shown on plan. **Motion to approve the minor change to the OOC:** CM 2nd: DG Discussion: DG: where you are digging out, will you remove soils off site? CM: Yes. Vote: 3-0

Letter Permits:

88 Westwood Drive, Bishop Nawrot. 7 trees marked with orange tape for removal.

Documents Submitted: Arborist report submitted previously.

A few commissioners conducted a site visit today. There was orange and blue flagging. Orange flagged ones are for marked for removal.

Agent briefing: We found a number in serious decline if not dead. However, we feel that area should remain shaded with vegetation. Not sure that 14 new trees will work here, so we are recommending a 1:1 or 1:1.5 replacement. Hemlocks, white or red oak, maples could work ideally here. There is a concern for some replacement trees as suggested by the arborist. EG: since I was unable to see today, I can't vote. Requesting a planting plan with shade producing trees. GC: They provided a planting plan, however the trees that were suggested on their plan won't survive thus a recommendation was given. CM: Their plan for new trees won't produce enough canopy. GC: Requests CM input for specifics of what trees he suggests for a planting plan. EG: Cont. to the next meeting on 9/18.

8 Mt. Dan Road, Tom Liro, representing the owner, for request of 3 trees to be removed.

TL: Requesting an appeal to remove 3 white pine trees that are a safety hazard and are a property protection issue.

Documents Received: Arborist report and family letter as to why they want to remove these trees.

Agent Briefing: Report does express concern as (3) tall trees, may snap under windy conditions, 75-100' away from lake. EG: Were they pruned up? TL: Yes. CM: When we gave permission to remove trees in the past, did you do a 2:1 replacement? TL: Nothing was mentioned to us about that, but on appeal I would like to replace these (3) trees if they are removed. Since December 2013, we have been working to treat trees with Ganesh Tree. DG: Feels it's a self-imposed hardship. That by removing those hemlocks previously, that they were shielding these trees. TL: 5 tree companies said that they should come down. EG: Can't make a decision, need to see on site. CM: Arborist Dennis Pano, stating that if the branches were not pruned, they would have helped with support. I also feel that it's a self-imposed hardship. Continued to the next meeting on 9/18.

121 & 123 Shore Rd, Andrew Milne, 2 trees, (1) on each lot. There is no arborist report available. A site visit was conducted today and we feel these trees are in serious decline. One is leaning over the house. EG: Wants a site visit. Continued to the next meeting on 9/18.

258 Big Alum, Wayland Wheaton, 5 trees; (4) between cottage and road and (1) on the left side of parking area across the road. There is no arborist report available. A site visit was conducted today. GC: Feels the trees are in poor condition from

lighting strike. The double tree is in poor condition and declining. The other 3 trees are in serious decline. CM: feel opportunity for replacement on property. EG: Wants a site visit. Continued to the next meeting 9/18.

53 Beach Ave, Raoul & Theresa Ricard, 6' fence A 6-foot fence along property line with 47 Mountain Brook (south property line). The split rail on neighbor property which will remain in place. A new fence will come up to the tree and for privacy. Fence will go to the lake. Maintain a small gap (6") to allow wildlife to pass under the fence. Fence can run up to 15' from the water but must stay out of the beach area. Can install a 6' fence, but don't sink the posts. Check with the Building Inspector. Consensus: letter permit granted.

99 New Boston Road, Gary & Anne Malone, 7 trees Sturbridge Pottery 7 trees, 6 birch trees that are leaning over the driveway, and one pine tree with thin canopy. A site visit conducted today. CM: (1) birch over the driveway is dead. Some trees, if not all, lean. One is definitely dead, along with a few others in stream bed. EG; wants site visit. Continued to the next meeting 9/18.

67 Arnold Road, Pankaj Desai, brush cutting and a driveway addition. A site visit was conducted today. GC: pic of area to brush hog. some ledge, all golden rod, sumac, Russian olive, bittersweet. No reason why he wants to do it. Will be hard to mow. EG: wants a site visit. CM: wants to do some maintenance on detention basin. Where is wetland GC: 50 – 75' definitely in BZ. Continued to the next meeting 9/18.

Forest Cutting Plans

- Farquhar Road, T. More. 19 acres. GC Update: We are waiting for revised plan.
- Streeter Road, Michael Kearney trust. Timber salvage of tornado damage. GC Updated: We are waiting for revised plan.

Correspondence: None

Open Space Update: None

Agent Report:

- 118 Leadmine Lane: Update: was in for a tree removal last time. Marked the trees. The silt fence was put back in, it's in better condition.
- **3 CherryBrook:** Work is 5' from house and in riverfront area. 4 Sonitubes: 2 are in the work limit, and 2 are in an undisturbed area. No boulders are there to identify yard limit. Met Fred Trifone on site today. Explained the as-built plan must show that the boulders are used to identify the work limit. They are shown on the recorded plan. Must get markers in yard and must be put on the plan.
- **Heinz Farm:** Karen Bourdeaux, an abutter to the rear of the property. She has concern with markings of the property line. Not sure that the town owns what they think they own. Showed her a paper survey, but wants us to look into property line behind her house, feels there are errors in the deed. Commissioners discussed who might be the responsible party to confirm this question of boundary lines. No further action discussed at this time.
- CR Update: The interim Town Administrator and the BOS wanted to review this draft. Attorney Bob Levite has presented a copy of the CR for Long Pond. The other 3 CR's haven't been drafted yet. Attorney Levite has submitted one to the State, Irene Delbono. ID hasn't reviewed the draft as she feels the process is incorrect, that the Land Trust should approve it before she reviews. In February, GC handed off a drafted package to BL for all the CR parcels. The package contained copies of all the deeds, surveys and mapping for baseline document report. Timetable on completion of this project is unknown at this point. Until this last week, we have received 1 drafted CR.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 pm Motion: DG 2nd: CM Vote: Unanimous

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 7:00 pm

A copy of tonight's meeting can be found on our Town's website or is available upon request via the Audio Department: 508.347.7267