

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Thursday, January 22, 2015
Sturbridge Center Office Building, 2nd Floor**

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00 – 6:45 pm Conservation Restrictions Review; working session for Commissioners
6:45 pm Reconvene Meeting for Regular Business

Quorum Check: Confirmed
Members Present: Ed Goodwin (EG), Chairman **Members Absent:** None
David Barnicle (DB), Vice Chair
Donna M. Grehl (DG)
Calvin Montigny (CM)
Joseph Kowalski (JK)

Others Present: Glenn Colburn (CG), Conservation Agent
Cindy Sowa Forgit, Conservation Clerk
Applicants and/or Audience Members: Kevin MacConnel, Mark Farrell, Leslie Duthie, Robert Levite, Howard Fife, Jen Ohop, Ed Hood and Mike Loin

Committee Updates:

- **CPA – (EG)** No meeting held
- **Trails Committee – (DB)** Meeting held last Thursday, no further update.
- **Lakes Advisory Committee – (DG)** No recent meetings but are continuing with articles on ice fishing. Recently held a successful boat safety course.

Approval of Minutes: Oct 16, 2014: Motion: DB 2nd: CM 5-0
Nov 6, 2014: Motion: DB 2nd: JK (4-0, DG abstain)
Nov 20, 2014: Motion: DB 2nd: DG 5-0
Dec 4, 2014: Motion: DB 2nd: JK 5-0
Dec 18, 2014: Motion: DB 2nd: CM (4-0, DG abstain)

Public Hearings:
7:00 pm Notice of Intent DEP #300-921, 307B Main Street, 307 Sturbridge LLC. Repair of septic system in the buffer zone. Mark Farrell, representing Kevin McConnell, present. The existing cess pool won't pass Title V, therefore the applicant is requesting a new soil absorption system. The leach field will be in the rear, which slopes to the wetland. Straw waddles and a silt fence will be installed for the erosion controls. It's too expensive to tie into town sewer. Proposing to remove a 30"-36" sugar maple. The existing cess pool will be pumped, and then filled with sand. Will also remove the old timbers that are on top of this area. DB: Requested a change: Since the area is flat and the sub soil is gravelly, there is really no need for a silt fence as the straw waddles will be enough. With the tree removal, Commission will request a 2:1 replacement and would prefer to locate the tree closer to wetland but will leave the type of tree and the location up to the expert. **Motion: To close the public hearing and issue an OOC under the MA Wetlands Protection Act and the Sturbridge Town Bylaws as per the plan submitted with the special condition that no silt fence is required and the addition of 2 trees: DB 2nd: DG Discussion: CM Timing of work? KM: Spring. Vote: 5-0**

7:15 pm Request for Determination of Applicability, 4 Scotch Pine Circle, Chris Bouchard. In-ground pool in the buffer zone. (cont from 11/20/14) **Applicant requested to continue to our next meeting on Feb 5. Request granted.**

Open Space:

Tax Taking parcels:

- Discussed last meeting; mostly wet (the large parcel – EG feels not developable)
 - 32 Warren: EG feels not developable; mostly wet
 - 280 Brookfield – EG feels not developable, mostly wet yet valuable to protect Big Alum watershed
 - 69 paradise – EG feels not developable, mostly wet yet valuable to protect Big Alum watershed
 - 367 New Boston (10 ac) – Did not visit during the last site visit. EG feels that if it's a buildable lot, the town should sell it. DG feels lots of water. CM: Can we put a CR on a portion of the land to protect it? Vote to Take the Property: 2-3 (JK, DB & EG)
- GC to tell town we will take other lots but will pass on New Boston Road.

Enforcement:

29 Main Street, Brian Eisold/Clearview Landscaping. Fill in a wetland. Work in the buffer zone without a permit.

Agent Briefing: Jalbert's plan was discussed but please note Jalbert is no longer working for Mr. Eisold. GC: Told owner to propose replanting of trees cut and establish a work limit line or permanent BZ using boulders and/or jersey barriers. The owner will be present at the next meeting to discuss a proposal.

Request for Certificate of Compliance:

8 Hall Road, DEP #300-639, Thomas Earls. An Order of Conditions was issued Dec 17, 2004 and expired in 2007 for Lot 3. The work never started; therefore it must be closed out as it was recorded on the property. The DEP doesn't want two open OOC on a property. We will get a plan for construction of a new house at our next meeting. Signatures obtained.

Letter Permits

31 Bennetts Road, Mike & Karen McKnight. Request tree removal for 2.

Agent briefing: All commissioners viewed trees at a recent site visit. The trees are in bad shape. Commission's policy is a 2:1 replacement. Owner Proposed 2 planted trees and 2 shrubs (winterberry near the water) as noted on the plan. Vote: 5-0

Old Business:

- **OOC/Borrego Solar Design:** Mike Loin, Bertin Engineering discussed briefly that after the last Planning Board meeting, National Grid suddenly realized the spacing between the rack of panels was 2' short causing shading. No changes will occur on the West side. The East side has been extended about 35'-40'. The revised plan should be referenced in the OOC. GC: Concern for potential vernal pool at South East corner. ML: No changes were made to that area. JK, CM & DG: Have no issues with the change. GC did compare the approved plan with these changes. GC: This change is outside of Commission's jurisdiction. **Motion: To approve the minor modification of this new plan dated Jan 12, 2015 and sign the OCC: CM 2nd: JK Discussion: None. Vote 3-2 (DB/EG).**
- **Bob Staudinger, 47 Mountain Brook Road** – GC to follow up on a site visit with this owner due to questions he has regarding erosion issues on his property.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:47 pm Motion: DB 2nd: CM Vote: Unanimous

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 5, 2015 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

The items listed, which may be discussed at the meeting, are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair.~ Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.~ For those items that will be discussed, the Conservation Commission will address its questions and concerns with a proponent before allowing the public to weigh in on the topic being discussed with the proponent.~ For public discussion of non-agenda items, such discussion will be handled during the Walk-in period or as allowed by the Chair.