

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Thursday, December 3, 2015
Sturbridge Center Office Building, 2nd Floor**

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00 pm. Chairman Ed Goodwin

Quorum Check: Confirmed

Members Present: Ed Goodwin (EG), Chairman
David Barnicle (DB), Vice Chair
Joseph Kowalski (JK)
Steven Chidester (SC)

Others Present: Glenn Colburn (GC), Conservation Agent
Anne Renaud-Jones, Conservation Clerk
Applicants and/or Audience Members: Len Jalbert, Susan McKeon, Tom Revane, John Radner,
John Argitis

Committee Updates:

- **CPA – (EG)** No meeting has been held
- **Trails Committee – (DB)** No meeting has been held
- **Lakes Advisory Committee** – Need for a new liaison from the Commission was discussed:
Agent reported that a draft version of the “Lakes Brochure” has been submitted to the LAC for review. We’d like to thank The Sturbridge Lakes Advisory Committee for their assistance in this project by providing feedback and suggestions. We hope to wrap this up very quickly.

Commissioners asked about status of the town’s 4 CRs, which have been submitted to the state for final review.
Agent will contact Bob Levitt and or Irene Del-Bono again for an update on progress.

Walk-ins – None

Signatures

- **Certificate of Compliance #300-784;** 660 Main Street, this work was never started; OOC has expired.
- **Order of Conditions #300-940;** 138 Podunk Road; replacement septic system
- **Order of Conditions #300-939;** 188 Lake Road; raze and rebuild of SFH

New Business

- Commission has received a phonecall from a town resident asking about placing Fairy Houses on town trails. Commissioners will familiarize themselves with Fairy Houses and will seriously consider the opportunities this might present for increasing trails use in town.
- Agent will pursue a Mass Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) membership for our new commissioner Steve Chidester
- Agent: After the holidays, we will be resurrecting the ByLaws review that we have started: We will prepare a summary to refresh everyone on the status of all chapter changes. There should not be much more to wrap up this project.

Public Hearings

6:15 Notice of Intent DEP #300-tbd, 140 Lake Road. Removal/Repairs to stone and masonry retaining wall; work within a water resource. Property owner John Radner presented. No DEP number has been received on this project yet. Mr. Radner presented a rough sketch of his work project, and discussed some details of his plan, but the Commission felt the scope of this work project was such that a very detailed plan would be necessary in order for the Commission to properly oversee this work. **Granted Request for Continuation to Dec 17 meeting.**
The Commission had visited this site, and asked Mr Radner about 2 trees on his property that had chains on them, endangering their health. It was determined that one of the trees belonged to a neighbor, and Mr Radner agreed to remove the chain from his tree.

6:30 Notice of Intent DEP# 300-942, 10 Willard Road, construction of a single family house with work in the buffer zone, Plan submitted by Jalbert Engineering, Inc for Kimberly A. Klimczuk (continued from Nov 19th)

Len Jalbert presenting: We have revised these plans per comments from the Commission at the last meeting: we have moved this house back and out of the 100ft buffer zone; we have changed the location of the water and sewer to be outside of the 25ft buffer; there is a culvert that discharges into the wetland; we intend to leave that untouched;

- Much discussion proceeded about the drainage of this property, including an old swale that had been filled with tornado debris in 2011, the grade of the proposed driveway for this new build, and the flow direction from the site to the wetland. It was decided that the commission needed to revisit the site to be more clear about how the engineering will work. A site visit was scheduled for Tuesday, December 15th at 9:00 am. **Granted Request for Continuation to Dec 17 meeting.**

6:45 Notice of Intent DEP #300-941, with no comments from DEP: Mass Electric, dba National Grid: Utility Pole Removal and Replacement at Shepard and Wallace Roads: BCS Group, Mike Toohill.

Motion (DB); 2nd; to close the Public Hearing, and issue an Order of Conditions for the work which has taken place at Shepard and Wallace Roads. Vote: AIF. (4:0)

Letter Permits

202 Lake Road, Wendy Stearns. Drilled well in the 200' buffer zone.

Len Jalbert presenting: The current well for this property is immediately adjacent to the lake, and has about 1 foot of water remaining in it. We are proposing a new artesian well, positioned almost 150 feet from the lake ; All 3 E1 pumps will be over 50' from the new well.

Commissioner comments: None **Consensus to approve plan as presented.**

144 Lake Road, John Argitis. Tree Removal Permit: Remove one tree in the buffer zone. Mr Argitis present:

Agent comments: site visited, difficult to ascertain health of tree this time of year; there is no arborist report.

JA: requesting removal of one black birch tree; photos have been submitted; the stump will remain; there will be no excavation and no damage to surrounding hemlocks;

Commissioner comments: all approve; no need for replanting. **Consensus to approve plan as presented.**

98 + 100 Paradise Lane, Michael Deterando, (Robinson Tree, Ron Chernisky) ;

Applicant is pursuing a certified arborist report.

214 Hemlock Path, Wes Gilbert, request for removal of 8 trees- several hemlock w/ wooly adelgid, plus 1 dead oak, plus one decayed oak threatening a building

Applicant is pursuing a certified arborist report.

Enforcements

45 Seneca Ln, Craig Moran. Restoration/replanting plan. (continued for plan);

Plan was received 12/3; commission considered it inadequate. Agent was asked to notify Mr. Moran requesting more detail.

30 Camp Road – Richard Ellis – Work in BZ. Still waiting for stabilization plan from EcoTec.

9 Holland Road, Gerry Paquin. Work in the Riverfront Resource Area without permits.

Agent is continuing to monitor this site: all has been stable thus far.

8 Birch Street, Gerry Paquin. Work in the buffer zone without permits. Demolition plan.

Mr. Paquin has been ill and unable to attend this meeting. Commission consensus to issue a second fine for this violation due to it being unaddressed for so long.

Forest Cutting Plans

Fiske Hill & Main Street, 99 acres. Daniel Flynn; Submitted by Tony Grossi;

Agent comments have been submitted to the State Forester: all wetlands seem to have been properly identified; that there is a perennial stream on the site, and that it does seem to be a "short-term" plan, designed for income from the harvest rather than directed at the health of the land.

Discussion of Red Trail Crossings; Commission walked the Pine Lands Trail on Sunday, Nov 22nd to review the sites along the Pine Lands Trail where Trails Committee has suggested installation of culverts:

Agent comments Spot 1, Pine Lands North: This spot would be resolved with a solution more simple than orig presented; Commissioners discussed multiple options for this site: decided to explore bringing in very large flat stones since the water is so shallow in that area and only wet 3 months a year; will have minimal maintenance:

Consensus: DB will bring this suggestion to the Trails Committee.

Agent comments Spot 2 Leadmine Trail: This spot is really just a poorly drained area, not a wetland, Gravel fill will fill the ruts and bring up the grade; **Commissioners agreed.**

Agent Comments Spot 3 Leadmine Trail: This spot is where we discussed an equalizer pipe ; a 15inch x 15' long culvert, angled on the trail although the area is rocky and may be difficulty digging...

Commissioners agreed to install a 15 inch pipe as originally proposed by the Trails Committee

Agent Comment Spot 4 Pine Lands South: This is the spot where we decided to do a bridge, similar to Bridge B on Leadmine Trail - ; this will need a full Notice of Intent. DB: "Trails was talking about using a new stronger design which uses 4 poles instead of 3; **Commissioners agreed.**

Wrap up: Glenn will send a note from Conservation to Trails Committee advising them of this discussion.

Approval of minutes

Approval of minutes for November 10, (special) 2015

Motion (DB): To accept the minutes of November 10; 2nd: SC Vote: 3:0 Abstain (JK)

Approval of minutes for November 19, 2015

Motion (DB): To accept the minutes of November 19; 2nd: SC Vote: AIF (4:0)

Correspondence

2015 Summary Report for aquatic plant management on Cedar Lake and Big Alum Lake. Commissioner asked that we forward these to Dave Mitchell of SLAC;

7:50 Motion (DB) 2nd (SC) to adjourn VOTE: AIF

Next Meeting Thursday night, December 17, 2015

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.