

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 7/25/12

To: Members of Upton Conservation Commission
cc: Upton Town Clerk
From: Denise Smith, Administrative Assistant

Members Attending:

Chris Scott, Mike Penko, Marcella Stasa, Alan Miano, and Scott Heim

7:35 PM Meeting w/ J. Thompson/DPW Dir and B. Robinson/Town Mgr

- Introduction of CC members and new DPW Dir Jeff Thompson; communication will be directly to Jeff but will cc Blythe.
- No new road projects from the list that was provided Spring 2012; typically will re-evaluate and prioritize roadwork in a five year plan.
- CC expressed concern regarding street drainage; want to make sure that drainage is not directed toward streams/wetlands.
- Discussion of Southboro Rd/beaver issues; discussed moving or removing the old pipes on CCC Way thought is that these are useful during a high-flow event; spillway/outlet structure is buried on the southern impoundment; DPW will do a cost estimate and determine what it would take to remove the old pipes and create a new spillway; water level is killing trees and several need to be removed for public safety(at Southboro Rd near the berm) this will also help clean up the area; Natural Heritage previously authorized lowering the water level by 1 foot thus they may need to be contacted to see if they are ok w/ lowering any more; discussed the horse trail access; slopes are a concern need to make it rider friendly. Use of old piece of granite suggested for spillway crest. EL 2.0 suggested for spillway crest.
- Motion was made to ask DPW to install a spillway – size and materials to be determined also to remove the old pipes – 2nd & approved (4 yes/1 abstention)
- MP to contact Lynne Harper of NHESP.

8:00 PM NOI 16 Shore Dr (con't)

E. Mainini/engineer

- Hearing was continued from 7/11/12 as abutters were not properly notified; applicant requested new abutters list from the Assessor's Office and send notices to those who were not notified previously.
- Applicant met w/ BOH
- Motion to close hearing – 2nd & approved.

8:05 PM Cross Winds discussion

B. Poxon/G&H

- Discussion of the double catch basin that were installed per the plans; problem is that because they are open debris and material are falling through thus would like to cover the basins.
- Selby supports the need to cover the basins – will keep material out of the stream.
- Motion to support covering the basins and not leave the grates open – 2nd & approved
- Revise plans will be submitted.

8:10 PM Agent's Report

Selby

- Per report submitted 7/12/12 – 7/25/12

8:20 PM Forest Management Discussion

- Hold discussion until next meeting – Aug 8th at 8:30 pm.

General/Pending/Active Items

Meeting Minutes - Motion to approve mm from 7/11/12 – 2nd & approved.

Website

- FAQ sheet has been put on the website.
- Draft Herbicide Policy also has been put on website; a public meeting to discuss this will be held on Aug 8th at 8 PM.
- Prototype of the new town website has been approved by the BOS; goal is to have this up and running by this fall.

OSC/LSC

- Need to review and implement ADA policy for trails; Mass Audubon and the DCR have policies to look at; Will be evaluating our facilities, perhaps trail by trail, to determine needs and create trails that are universally accessible; possibility of grants to help upgrade some trails; discussion of some sort of emergency support or notification for someone on the trails should they need assistance; possibly purchase an off road vehicle for handicapped person to use on certain trails.
- Application for Trails Grant was denied which affects putting in fences at SWF; Metacomet has agreed to help raise money for the SWF fence.
- Peppercorn Hill liability/insurance issue is still in process btw Town and Nat'l Grid. Will need a license agreement for construction of bridge/trails then another for general use of the trails.
- Trail has been created which connects SWF to Warren Brook.

PARC Grant

- Paperwork has been submitted (max amount \$400,000); DCS site visit will be scheduled.

8:45 PM South St Residents Questions re: South St gravel pits

- CS opened discussion by addressing questions directly from Jeff Ballard's email dated 7/24/12 regarding the gravel pit located off South St; questions regarding the current Excess Earth Removal (EER) Permit and future concerns for that site.
- Who is monitoring? There is no one out there on an on-going basis only if concerns or issues are raised.
- Current EER Permit was issued in 2010 and expires in 2013; why 60,000 yds (of removal) determined? H. Poirier explained that as this is a 3 year permit that was a realistic goal; number or loads/yardage being removed per day are kept by the Poiriers; CS suggests that before the next permit is issued grading plans be submitted;
- No topsoil has been removed from the site in the past 40 years; it is stockpiled on site and there is probably enough to cover the site; Reclaiming of topsoil (loam) is required as part of the permit (item # 23) before another permit can be issued.
- The 2010 Permit did not require an NOI filing as they were not working w/in the wetlands; Forest cutting – permits are determined by amount (board feet) being cut/cleared; they did cut an amount that would have required a filing – they have been informed of this amount and will make sure it won't happen again; beavers - Con Com will issue a letter regarding how to deal w/ beavers, this is something that will also be put on our website.
- EER Permit does not specifically deal w/ bringing in materials from another site – only removing of materials.
- Rare species hasn't been investigated by Con Com; Poiriers are cognizant of this issue and are using the Natural Heritage map and have tried to stay out of any areas; question was raised as to possibility of staking the areas so it is clear where they need to avoid working.
- Future concerns: will they be required to bring in topsoil, loam, seed prior to a sale to the Town? No they are not required to do this; they are required to grade, loam and seed the gravel site as part of the EER Permit and it will be done prior to another permit.
- Field development – aquifer doesn't prevent development (not a Zone 2/well head); restrictions will most likely be imposed if fields are to be developed; this site is down-gradient from the new well field.
- Dodson study classified area as having high natural resources value: Dodson study had a broad landscape-level scope. was a broad scope; there are valuable resources on the parcel but not the disturbed gravel pit area (parcel);
- When does Con Com get involved? w/ the filing of a Site Plan, however, w/ the PARC Grant application Con Com did take a look at some issues that would come into play and it was determined that the fields project would be permissible. <5000 sf would be filled for access road
- BR gave an update of the process involved in looking at land for recreation and it did involve looking at other parcels through out town; looked at the MEPA permit process and took this into consideration as to what could be built/developed; won't know about the PARC Grant until probably October; if we do receive the grant the Town will

need to purchase the land by June 2013; No money will be spent but we are working toward moving forward and anticipating what needs to be done.

- Other concerns re: the EER Permit such as trucks, hours of operation and bus routes are not Con Com issues.

Finances

- Current vouchers signed.

Motions

- Motion to issue COC for 60 Knowlton Cir – 2nd & approved.
- Motion to issue OOC for 16 Shore Dr – 2nd & approved.
- Motion to issue letter to the Poiriers re: beaver issue – 2nd & approved

9:56 PM Meeting Adjourned

Minutes approved on _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____