

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

508-529-6286
concomm@uptonma.gov

1 Main St, Box 9
UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01568

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 3/13/2013

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

Members Attending:

Mike Penko, Marcella Stasa, Scott Heim, Alan Miano, Tom Jango and Sandy Lajoie

7:35 PM 6 Shore Dr – Request for COC (311-582) S. Blum

- Selby reviewed and determined the fence needed to come down as was not on the original NOI and is w/in the no-disturb area.
- According to homeowners attorney (Ms. Blum) most of the fence & footings were removed today (pictures to confirm).
- COC will be issued w/ the condition that entire fence & footings are to be removed or an Enforcement Order will be issued.
- Motion to issue and sign the COC – 2nd & Approved.

7:45 PM Wetland Bylaw Fee Schedule Public Hearing

- Discussion of proposed changes to the fee schedule.
- Selby gave an overview of Ashland's fees.
- Intent of raising the fees is to bring our fees in line with other towns; our fees are inadequate to cover the costs associated with reviewing projects, issuing determinations or conditions and issuing COCs for completed projects.
- Motion to close the PH and discuss the fee increase at a later date – 2nd & Approved.

8:00 PM Draft Forest Management Policy (dated 10/20/12) Public Hearing

- Two week deadline for submitting written comments (by next mtg on 3/27/13).
- LSC currently manages 800 acres (approx.) of conservation areas and Stefans Farm & Goss Pond.
- Overview of General Goals, forest classifications (4 classes) and designation of Upland Forest as Forest Reserve.
- General Plans: Land Stewardship & Forest Management Plans.
- Intent is that Forest Cutting Plans will require a public hearing w/ public input prior to enacting the plan.
- Protect resources.
- General provisions: use of consultants; proposing a Forest Revolving Fund at May ATM 2013; tree nurseries
- Review of Definitions.
- Setback guidelines are very conservative.
- Discussion/Questions/Comments:
- Con Com only has authority over conservation land not Stefans or Goss Pond; LSC (through the Con Com) has management over all lands.
- Forest Preserves - should allow for some flexibility to allow cutting for encouragement of a specific species.
- Recreation Trails – suggest putting a line in any contracts w/ loggers or contractors that they must repair any damage to trails.
- Appreciate fact of consideration of cultural resources; would like to see some type of setback and limit the type of equipment that is used around any such resources.
- May need to have a separate management plan/policy on protecting cultural areas.

- Land Stewardship Plan – may or may not include a MA DCR Forest Plan? This is a case-by-case item. Our town criteria is more stringent/protective than the DCRs; The DCRs plan is for forestry only whereas the LS plan is everything; may be instituted in steps such as first a LS plan then a forestry plan down the road.
- There is no “Forest Management Definition”; possible suggestions: Deciding what trees to cut; or conversely - Deciding what trees not to cut.
- What are the consequences of not having a policy? Responses: may be missing some opportunities to improve our town properties (per established goals); taking back some of the responsibility for what resources we use instead of taking from other areas; wildlife diversity; a forest that is not managed is not always a healthy forest; also will aid in keeping down invasive species; a policy protects and prevents action on town land.
- We are not intending this to be a commercial venture but cutting is needed for some species and to increase diversity of species, wildlife and resources.
- Much concern about and against any cutting or management.
- Need to review the deed (particularly for the Snow property) which contains language for management; not all DCR Best Management Practices (BMPs) are “best”.
- Need to include any CR or deed restrictions info in policy
- Suggestion to add fire or prescribed burning to the Management Policy.
- Motion to close the public hearing – 2nd & Approved.

9:05 PM Town Hall Renovation – NOI (311-671) J. Savello

- Drainage improvements – currently 2 catch basins at the parking area on Warren St will be eliminated and replaced with manhole and deep sump catch basins.
- Decrease impervious coverage by about 6,000 sf which will decrease the flow from the site; will use pervious materials.
- Perimeter drains and roof drains will be used (roof drains where existing gutters)/
- Adding another drain on the front walkway at the new handicap entrance.
- Proposed changes are an improvement to the site.
- Stormwater Report was file w/ the NOI also an Operation & Maintenance Plan and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.
- Grading changes to the parking lot on Warren St; will add fill to decrease the grade along the top; also adding a new berm and guardrail.
- Concerns about snow plowing in the parking area.
- Erosion controls are accounted for with use of silt fencing.
- Construction schedule – start June 2013 complete July 2014; Warren St will be closed off during construction; outdoor work won’t be done until spring 2014.
- Utilities will be installed during construction of drains.
- Motion to close the public hearing – 2nd & Approved.

9:35 PM Westboro Rd Trail Race - RDA R. Thompson

- Looking at a max of 300 runners/participants
- Estimated that the parking are can hold 365 cars; will have a traffic detail/cop. Question on soils in parking area.
- Will have 10’ – 20’ of gravel where the parking area enters the road; will clear the high grass and thicket area; may need to remove some small trees which will be mulched and used on site.
- 3 wetlands crossing will be temporary. Roughly 90’ – 100’ of crossing (total)
- Course is 3.2 – 4 miles
- Agent raised issue of amount of disturbance/alteration? Commission determined that as the alteration is of a temporary and minimal nature that the RDA filing is sufficient.
- Hearing has been continued until Wednesday, March 27th at 7:30 as waiting to hear from Natural Heritage and Selby will do a site visit.

10:00 General Items

Finances - Current vouchers/payroll signed.

Meeting Minutes –Motion to approve minutes from 1/23/13 & 2/13/13 and 2/27/13 – 2nd & Approved.

Website

OSC - BT drafted a response letter to Mr. Chace's letter; suggested adding info on tax credit program.

LSC

Finances FY14

Kenneth Village – site visit will be planned for spring 2013.

General/Office – resend link for State Ethics test; move file cabinet from town hall basement to Con Com office.

10:20 PM Meeting Adjourned

Minutes approved on 3/27/13









