

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

508-529-6286
concomm@uptonma.gov

1 Main St, Box 9
UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01568

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 5/14/2014

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

Members Attending:

Chris Scott, Mike Penko, Tom Jango, Marcella Stasa, Alan Miano, Scott Heim, and Sandy Lajoie
Mary Overholt (Associate); Selby (Agent)

7:40 PM Forestry

- Marcella has contacted several companies and set up interviews for upcoming meetings.
- Questionnaire was forwarded to these companies along with the Forest Management Policy and map of town land.

7:45 PM Agent's Report

- Per submitted report (4/24 – 5/14/14)
- Crosswinds status update (Denise from Planning Board meeting); reviewed the draft Conservation Checklist of items to be addressed, will update info on lots w/ restrictions and easements; copies will be forward to the applicant, DPW, Planning Board and Blythe.
- Beaver activity at intersection of Old Grafton Rd and Rte 140 dams are being build, issued an Emergency Certificate to the DPW; question came up regarding if the State did anything here a few years back because of beavers? Made a motion to have Tom contact Beaver Solutions to take a look at this area (Old Grafton Rd) – 2nd and approved. Also a motion was made to authorize Beaver Solutions to spend up to \$2000 to install beaver deceivers if he thinks they would be necessary – 2nd and approved.
- Selby suggested putting together beaver management plan to identify areas where activity could be tolerated and those areas where beaver activity would be detrimental; Chris and Mike recalled there was such a document already started.
- Wood Turtle study project – meeting w/ Dan Wells this Friday at 9:00 am
- Will send a letter to Industrial Tower regarding the Warren St cell tower as they have erosion issues.

8:15 PM Hartford Highlands

K.Lobisser/M.Allen

- Continued discussion regarding Stormwater Bylaw requirements.
- They have integrated direct infiltration of roof runoff, leaching catch basins, stones.
- 4 waivers requested for LID component: 22' wide roadway (pavement) not 26'; 90' diameter of cul-de-sac not 100'; sidewalk on 1 side of street; and side slopes.
- Planning Board is looking for Conservation approval – is it in harmony with the Stormwater bylaw??
- Using Filtermitt for erosion control.
- Installing a sub-drain under the sidewalk and will discharge into the catch basins.
- Stormwater – Con Com has no concerns or issues at this time; will issue a letter to the Planning Board that this meets the spirit of the Town's bylaw.
- Motion to issue the letter for Hartford Highlands to the Planning Board – 2nd & approved. (Selby will draft letter).

8:30 PM Continued NOI – Whitney Farms at Cotton Gin Circle subdiv. B. Saluk

- Additional 22 deep hole tests were done w/in the last couple weeks; also perc test & dry well tests.
- Did encounter some ledge about 8 ft down; moved drainage system area to the other side of the house on Lot 1.
- Drainage plans have been revised (5/13/14)
- Dry well increased by 43% in size which will capture more runoff from the back of the lots. 3 lots will have dry wells (lots 3, 7 & 8) the roof runoff will run to the catch basins.
- Silt fence location has changed to Filtermitt and will be around the entire set.
- Trees – what types should be planted?
- Construction fencing (note 11 on plan C1) around recharge area; no stockpiling of material.
- Maintenance cost of a vac truck for catch basins is about \$950 per year.
- Sequencing plan/timeframe.
- Complies with Stormwater Bylaw & State regs.
- Open Space discussion with Planning Board – public hearing rescheduled to 5/27 at 7:15 pm; applicant is intending to increase the number of street trees and at the back of the site (near RR) for sound buffer.
- Mike asked if anything in Planning Board regs to allow 1 lot to become a duplex and leave 1 lot as OS?
- Any thoughts to preserve the old stone walls from the discontinued road?
- Waivers: reduce road width to 22 and reduce the depth of the catch basins to 3 ft.
- Continued this hearing to May 28th at 8:15 pm.

9:00 pm NOI Fiske Mill Pond (Nipmuc Rod & Gun) K.Gazaille

- Proposing an aquatic control program using aquatic herbicides – “Reward” on the variable milfoil and “Aqua Pro” on the water lilies.
- Looking to do the treatments late May through mid-June; will do this in stages by treating blocks of about 10 acres at a time.
- Herbicide has no labeled restrictions but Aquatic Control Technology’s policy is to close the pond to activities for 1 day.
- Public hearing closed; OOC will be issued.

9:25 pm Rockwood Meadows Easement Deed

- Some possible amendments as the Applicant has concerns about too much activity in the backyards of these homes.
- Suggest moving the parking spots (6) near the existing farm stand on East St.
- Would allow additional parking in one of the fields when events are held.
- Possible alternative access to the trail instead of going around the backyards.
- Applicant is also rethinking the allowance for maintenance vehicles on the trails.

9:30 PM General Items

Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve and sign minutes from the 4/23/14 mtg – 2nd & approved; motion to approve and sign minutes from 4/9/14 mtg – 2nd & approved.

Finances - Current payroll signed; motion to sign expense voucher – 2nd & approved.

Website – continue to update w/ pertinent links and new info.

OSC – motion made to spend \$180 to hire someone to do some GIS works on the OS maps; looking into purchasing the Kibbe property off Merriam Way along Warren Brook.

LSC – walked the easement at SWF (now called Five Forks) and discovered that the new owner has plowed the field and dumped some stone on top of an historic stonewall along the trail. SVT has been notified; a motion was made to send a letter (per SVT review and approval) to the owner regarding the rocks and to set up a meeting to discuss what activity is/isn't allowed but to stop current activity – 2nd and approved. Also, the new owner (Grace) is proposing to install dome irrigation systems – waiting to hear back from her w/ more info. A Boy Scout is proposing to build a kiosk at Heritage Park (off Elm St) – there is an open OOC thus the Scout should contact the Commission to determine if this project is minor or if additional filing will be needed;

Whitney Conservation Area Easement Deed: Various easement related problems on the former store lot with the current owner (Bob Potheau) described. Violations include multiple encroachments on the trail or parking easements. Discussed sending a draft letter to Mr. Potheau regarding the parking area easement to reaffirm town rights (dated 5/15/14); Decision made not to send letter at this time; any letter sent should be reviewed by SVT and Town Counsel; Proposal to appoint Bill Taylor, Alan Miano and Selby as POC's w/ Mr. Potheau; they are to reach out to Mr. Potheau to see if they can work together regarding the parking area and other easement issues; One on one contact with Mr. Potheau is to be avoided. Motion made to appoint Bill, Alan and Selby as liaisons – 2nd & approved.

Motion – issue OOC for aquatic control program at Fiske Mill Pond – 2nd and approved.

Misc:

- Emergency contact list will be created and have all members info
- Forestry grant – no word at this time
- Typo in the Stormwater Bylaw – motion made to correct the typo – 2nd & approved.

10:25 PM Motion to Adjourn – 2nd & Approved

Minutes approved on: _____

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