

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

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1 Main St, Box 9
UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01568

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 10/8/2014

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

Members Attending:

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

7:30 PM Agent's Report (verbal)

- Rockwood Meadow site visit
- Cross Winds – problem with dumping; suggest that Planning Board ask the developer to block the access road from Plain St.
- 23 Hartford Ave N – need to replace the water line as it is leaking; OOC is still open so they can amend to include this work.
- 83 Taft St – signoff for a barn.

7:40 PM Rockwood Meadow Easement

- Nothing to report regarding last discussion of the easement; we will contact the developer to find out the status; Commission polled and all members present supported allowing trail access to bicycles, horses, and hunters.

7:45 PM General Business

Agent's Report – see above.

Meeting Minutes – motion to accept and sign minutes from 9/23/14 – 2nd and approved.

Website – updated location for office and meetings at town hall; added Mary to list as the Associate.

OSC – group in Hopkinton is looking to preserve property near Whitehall that abuts the USF; discussion about our policy regarding removing items from OS lands (edible, flowers, etc...) should we review this and change to allow certain things within limits for personal use/consumption; review the policy at our next meeting.

LSC – met w/ CPC re: tree removal at the old schoolhouse foundation on North St. and some trail improvement; CPC approved \$15,500 to be requested at the STM in November. Hoping the amount will be less. Also, the BOS approved the LSC to manage the 2 parcels off the North Street. One is north of Whitney Conservation Area (the former Thompson property that the town acquired from tax taking) and the other is north of the Warren Brook Conservation Area. We should think about naming the parcels.

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

Admin

Misc Items:

- no word on the second computer for the office.
- Turtle project – Dan put the first antenna on a turtle (#4).
- Articles have been included on the warrant for the upcoming STM (11/18/14).

8:00 PM Maple Ave Landfill – COC

G. Bernat

- Request for COC was not approved per concerns regarding the restoration area as required in the OOC; the restoration area plan was created but in reality excavation was much more extensive but the OOC was not amended to reflect the work; the open water habitat that exists today does not support the original restoration plan; berms are now vegetated.
- How can we wrap this up want to direct the owner to provide whatever is necessary to be satisfactory? If As-Built documentation w/ a letter of explanation is submitted showing what is there today will that be sufficient to close this out? Perhaps show as an overlay on the original plan.
- DEP is requiring ongoing monitoring of one deep groundwater (20') well; the source is underneath; everything on the surface is contained; the landfill has been capped and has no further leaching there is no threat to water life or plants.
- Brownfields requires different monitoring levels from solid waste regulations and MCP site.
- Since monitoring will continue they will the Commission to the list that will get the results; an annual report is also generated with summaries.
- Will return on 10/22/14 meeting at 7:30 pm.

8:30 PM Forestry Management Plan

- See if we can get a consultant trained in bird & wildlife habitat (Mass Audubon?).
- Tom explained the initial forestry plan is for an “improvement cut”; 10 years from now we may then want to investigate habitat and “value cut”.
- Some concerns about perception of what we do and who we choose to consult with; also concern about the expense of an additional consultant for wildlife/bird study; explore options for wildlife biologist or expert.
- Still negotiation contract w/ Rupert; Marcella will confirm w/ Mike Downey the details of an extension to the State’s deadline.

9:08 PM Motion to Adjourn – 2nd & Approved

Minutes approved on: _____

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