

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

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concomm@uptonma.gov

1 Main St, Box 9
UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01568

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 11/12/2014

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, Alan Miano and Scott Heim
Mary Overholt (Associate); Selby (Agent)

7:05 PM 12 Shore Dr – RDA

L. Reed

- Installing new septic system (Singular Green System) to replace the existing cesspool.
- Abuts Taft Pond and isolated wetlands.
- Relatively flat property; the owners are trying not to clear cut the property for this system.
- Existing cesspool will be pumped then crushed and removed.
- Relocating the well as the existing one is too shallow and will be too close to the new septic location.
- 50' minimum for the well to the septic.
- Suggest moving the septic outside the 100' buffer.
- New well location needs to be moved away from the BVW and is too close to the pond; concerns with impacts to the pond; drilling is the main concern.
- NOI is required; move septic and well.
- Hearing closed; will issue a Positive determination requiring an NOI.

7:20 PM Maple Ave (landfill)

G. Bernat

- Received letter dated 11/12/14 from Woodard and Curran; letter provides additional information regarding the original proposed remediation plan for this property and what the current conditions are.
- Open water is about 4' below grade; sediment is mostly phragmites and peat; very soft.
- Standards for mercury removal were met.
- On-going monitoring of groundwater, surface water and wetlands; 5 year plan for wetlands monitoring is required (started in 2012).
- Duck weed and skunk cabbage are beginning to grow but mostly phragmites; waterfowl do frequent this spot.
- Waste site clean-up monitoring could go as long as 30 years.
- Monitoring reports should be sent to Con Com.
- Looking for a complete COC; need to check the OOC to see what conditions were required also will include monitoring and perhaps future plantings if needed.
- Hearing closed; will issue COC w/in 21 days.

7:35 PM Agent's Report

- Per submitted report dated 10/22/14 – 11/11/14)

7:50 PM General Items

Meeting Minutes – motion to accept and sign minutes from 10/22/14 – 2nd and approved.

Website – updated new start time for meetings (7pm); new photos/info. Send updates and corrections as needed (typos) to Alan. Alan will update new office hours: Wed 1– 4 pm and Fri 8:30 – 11:30 am.

OSC – discussed parcels for sale or donation; one is land-locked (off North St on either side of Mass Pike) and is not contiguous to any other town owned properties; the other is off Taft St which could be used for recreation (field) or perhaps even a library. Bill Taylor will contact the owners to discuss.

8:00 PM Habitat Biologist

Maryanne Piche

- Works for Mass Wildlife, Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS).
- Primarily works with private land owners who are eligible for funding through NRCS.
- State Wildlife Plan (2005); identified 257 rare or declining species; uses Biomap 2.
- Has worked with foresters on forested land; try to coordinate to incorporate habitat management so as to not negatively impact forest plans; young forest habitat identified.
- Provided examples of land trusts she has written.
- Discussed our scope-of-work; she has worked w/ foresters to develop management plans and has amended existing plans to include habitat info.
- Experience with old growth characteristics and management; girdling trees, snags, downed trees and woody debris.
- Habitat assessments; works with other specialists once certain species are identified.
- Discussed how much field work she typically does for a plan – usually 1 day with a forester then follow-up visits; doesn't usually do survey work or monitoring.
- Works with a variety of people/teams: DCR, foresters, NRCS staff; each brings a different perspective when looking at the land. May include Natural Heritage staff too.
- Long-term goals/management; rotational management; let the property guide management and what the objectives are or are defined by the property.
- There are forest management practices that can generate income or designed for carbon storage value.
- DCR funding for implementing Forest Management Plans (after plans are created).

Forest Management Plan: Motion to hire Mass Audubon for 3 days of consulting up to \$1500 to come from Conservation Fund; balance would be paid from private donation (Metacomet) – 2nd; Discussion: do we need to bring in Mass Audubon at this time? We can do so later under Stewardship Plan; bring multi-disciplines in early in the plan creation to get everyone on the same page; should get feedback from Rupert (forester) as to how many people he is willing to work with. Vote: 4 yes – 2 no – 1 abstain
Need to get PR out in advance to explain that this forest management plan is being done with grant money; and that we aren't expending a lot of money for management and stewardship of 330 acres.

LSC – CPC voted not to fund proposal for the work at the old schoolhouse foundation; will pursue grant money for historical preservation projects; will meet w/ Jeff Thompson at the site to see what DPW/town might be able to do about cutting some trees; met w/ Hopkinton Con Com regarding Rockwood Meadows trail easement relocation; we have a Girl Scout that would like to build a kiosk at Peppercorn Hill. LSC will be meeting Sunday 11/16 at 9:00 am for site visit at Whitney Conservation area.

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

Admin/Office:

- motion to issue and sign COC for 1 Juniper Rd – 2nd and approved.
- motion to issue and sign COC for Maple Ave landfill area – 2nd and approved.
- Draft letter to the Potheau's outlining intended projects.
- Draft Annual Report sent around for comments at next meeting.

Misc Items:

- Reminder of STM on Tuesday 11/18/14.

9:45 PM Motion to Adjourn – 2nd & Approved

Minutes approved on: _____

