

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

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1 Main St, Box 9  
UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01568

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 6/11/2014

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

**Members Attending:**

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

**7:30 PM Whitney Farms at Cotton Gin Cir – Con't NOI**

- Hearing postponed and continued to our next meeting on June 25, 2014 at 7:45pm.

**7:35 PM Beaver Management**

- Tom setting up a meeting with Mike Callahan (Beaver Solutions) and the State to see what can be done at the corner of Old Grafton Rd & Rte 140; possibly a pond leveler with culvert pipes & fence.
- More beavers at Southboro Rd; Tom will talk w/ Jeff Thompson (DPW) about the trapper they used; very expensive and didn't finish the job as he needed to trap all the beavers not just 4; Tom can make some suggestions for local trappers.

**7:45 PM Stormwater**

- Only have had a few applicants to date but that is picking up.
- Discussion of the language regarding exemptions; we need to decide if this bylaw is meant to be more strict than State Regs.
- We also want to make sure that the bylaw applies to both individual homeowners and developers.
- Need to tighten the regs and make them clearer; need to do a final review of the policy memo MP drafted.

**8:05 PM Agent's Report**

- Reviewed submitted report (5/29 – 6/11/14)
- How do we want to handle homeowners who are dumping grass clippings and other materials in wetlands; it was suggested that we send a friendly letter noting the violation and asking them to remove the materials and to discontinue this practice. Should explain why they need to stop this type of activity.
- Also, submit an article to the Town Crier addressing this topic.

**8:25 PM Whitney Conservation Parking Lot**

- MP provided pictures of the parking area. Concerns with the abutter parking cars inside the easement; also work being done without coordination with the LSC and Con Com; MP very displeased with removal of vegetation and placement of gravel along the rock wall (poor aesthetics).
- MP suggested specific design criteria that should be met: safety of public; functionality of the lot (5-6 spaces); user friendly – need a well defined trail from the lot; well defined parking area so public

will not park outside the easement; need to delineate the trail easement where it passes near the abutters garage; need to minimize encroachment on trail easement by providing a marker or barrier btw Potheaus house/structure and the trail easement; good aesthetics.

- MP wants gravel along wall removed but no motion made. Suggestion made to leave gravel in place but rake some off trail so it is more appealing and trail is better delineated.
- Granite parking area delineators (car stoppers) have been ordered, expected to be installed within 2 weeks. Evaluate need for side delineation of lot after the stoppers are installed.
- Encourage Mr. Potheau to install whatever fence he was planning along the trail to help delineate the easement nearest his house; need to find out when he plans to install the fence.
- Motion to install an 8 foot x 6"x6" delineator along the trail easement – withdrawn, pending more information about Potheau's plan for fencing.
- Defer to Bill & Alan to talk w/ Mr. Potheau; then Commission will decide what needs to be done regarding installing the trail delineators, fence and to make the trail useable and passable.

#### **9:05 PM Turtle Habitat Project**

- Transmitters have been ordered but not received.
- Suggestions that we many want to hold off until next spring since the transmitters have not be attached to the turtles;
- Need to talk w/ Natural Heritage to see if the timeframe can be extended.

#### **9:15 PM Rockwood Meadows Trail Easement**

- Developer concerned about location of trail directly behind residential units.
- Proposing a new trail that will have a significant wetland crossing; Marcella suggested narrowing the crossing and adding an access point somewhere else w/in the development for vehicular access (emergency and maintenance purposes).
- Keeping the trail away from homes is preferable but this trail is desirable to connect with Peppercorn Hill.
- Would like to move the trail away from the abutters (Amato's) but this will push the trail further into Zone 1.
- Will a wetland crossing be allowed?
- Do we want to see a causeway (fill material) or a boardwalk over the wetlands? How wide will it need to be?
- Contact the developer – conceptually approved moving the trail with a 5' boardwalk; mitigation for wetland fill; reduce parking area to 18 spaces with alignment that reduces frontage on East St; Eliminate the zigzag along Zone 1 make it more direct; easement for very occasional vehicular access; need an alternative if Zone 1 crossing becomes a problem in the future, limited vehicular access off loop road (trail maintenance and emergency).
- Motion to present the above items to the developer and request a revised plan – 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved.

#### **9:45 PM General Items**

**Meeting Minutes** – Motion to approve and sign minutes from the 5/28/14 mtg – 2<sup>nd</sup> & approved;

**Finances** - Current payroll signed; motion to sign expense voucher – 2<sup>nd</sup> & approved; discussion of spending expense funds before end of FY.

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

#### **OSC**

**LSC** – Received a letter from the Lam's (new owners – Five Fork Farm) regarding the electric fence; still need more info on the farm plan; concern about the electric fence but was discussed that we would allow the electric fence but the Lams will need to install a barrier or buffer perhaps a fence similar to what was installed on the west side parcels. Suggest that we spend Metacomet money to assist in the cost of the fence. Need to discuss with SVT. Motion to approve the construction of the electric fence in the no structure zone if a barrier fence similar to what was installed on the west side is installed by the Lams;

also to entertain some cost sharing for a buffer/barrier fence pending agreement by SVT – 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved (4 yes – 1 no); Motion to spend \$560 for granite markers for Whitney parking area approved.

**Administrative Items** – Summer vacation schedules for Selby & Denise.

**Misc Items** – Discussion of purchasing a new sign for Peppercorn Hill (off Crockett Rd); motion to spend up to \$2500 for a sign the design subject to approval of the LSC Chair – 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved.

**10:30 PM Motion to Adjourn – 2<sup>nd</sup> & Approved**

**Minutes approved on:** \_\_\_\_\_

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