

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

508-529-6286
concomm@uptonma.gov

1 Main St, Box 9
UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01568

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 8/27/2014

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 and Alan Miano
Matthew Selby (Agent) and Mary Overholt (Associate)

7:30 PM Agent's Report

- Reviewed submitted report dated 8/13/14 – 8/27/14.
- Maple Ave former Upton Landfill property 2 requests for COCs: 311-620 Gas Barrier Trench and 311-637 wetland replication/restoration area; Discussion regarding the access easement for Con Com. Selby recommends issuing the COC for the trench but not the restoration area. Selby will prepare a letter regarding the replication area.
- Motion to issue and sign the COC for 311-620 – 2nd and approved.
- Reviewed the Request for COC for 4 Capeway; recommends approval.
- Motion to issue and sign the COC for 4 Capeway (311-167) – 2nd and approved.

8:10 PM Forestry

Received responses from both candidates (Phil Benjamin and Rupert Grantham); discussion as to pros and cons of candidates. Informal poll of members to see which candidate is favored; both were equally qualified and members were split on who to select.

- Motion to select Rupert Grantham contingent upon getting the extension to the deadline for submitting the plan and being able to provide appropriate info for GIS – 2nd and approved (4 – 1).
- Motion to select Phil Benjamin if the above cannot be completed – 2nd and approved (5-0).

Discussion regarding getting Mass Audubon involved in preparing the management plan. They would provide another perspective on the land but concerns that they are a lobbying group. Could we involve Natural Heritage or another group instead of Mass Audubon?

Planning to meet with the BOS to explain the grant and what is involved and the intent.

8:30 PM Rockwood Meadows Easement

- What approvals will be needed for changes to the trail alignment? Assuming that Hopkinton will need to approve and sign off on changes. Met with the Upton Planning Board to discuss proposed changes to the trail location.
- Use of the trails – non-motorized vehicles – bicycles/horses? Proposing no horse trailers to be parked in the parking lot; try to keep the use consistent with what is allowed at Peppercorn Hill since these trails will be connected.
- Enforcement – who and how??
- Signage
- Discussion with the developer and his attorney for the language of the easement document.

8:45 PM Beavers

Tom will send email to Blythe & the BOH re: the plan for beaver management at Baker Pond (Rte 140/Old Grafton Rd).

8:50 PM General Business

Meeting Minutes – motion to approve and sign minutes from 7/23/14 – 2nd and approved.

Website – updated Stormwater Regs w/ changes approved at the public hearing held 8/13/14.

LSC – tree removal at the old school foundation on North St; looking at professionals to remove the trees as much concern about potential damage to the retaining wall and/or the foundation itself; possibly CPA funds to cover the cost; meeting w/ CPC next month.

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

Admin – update on move to the Town Hall; Denise will prepare FY15 accounting reports for the next meeting.

Misc Items:

- State’s proposal to merge North St properties – Commission does not see any concerns with this proposal.
- The agreement for shared services (Agent) with Ashland is being reviewed; Blythe discussed with the Ashland Town Manager and they will honor the agreement through FY15. Blythe also spoke with Grafton to see if they would be interested in a similar agreement. Further discussion is needed.
- Large Lot Frontage Reduction Special Permit applications for 2 lots off Mendon St were submitted to Con Com for review; Selby will review and provide comments to the Planning Board. PB public hearing will be held 9/23.

9:35 PM Motion to Adjourn – 2nd & Approved

Minutes approved on: _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____