

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

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concomm@uptonma.gov

1 Main St, Box 9
UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01568

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 9/10/2014

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)

7:30 PM 25 West River St (discussion) G. Marcinek

- Purchased this property (roughly 18 acres) and will be removing the Quonset huts and replacing with a new home w/ a three car garage.
- Army Corp of Engineers has an easement of about 6 acres
- Looking to eventually have a small farm and horses.
- He has filed a Pre-Construction Evaluation form.

7:50 PM RDA – Goss Pond Trail LSC

- Trail development and wetland crossing (boardwalk) on existing trail located off Green Lane.
- Making improvements to the existing trail.
- Request to close the public hearing.
- Motion to close the hearing and to issue a Determination – 2nd & Approved.

7:55 PM General Business

Agent's Report – 8/28//14 – 9/10/14 submitted.

Meeting Minutes – motion to accept and sign minutes from 8/13/14 and 8/27/14 – 2nd and approved.

Website

OSC – waiting to hear back from Rockwood Meadow re: easement.

LSC – working at Stefans land w/ grant money; have a volunteer that will serve as the Community Garden Coordinator.

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

Admin

Misc Items:

- Email from Town Manager re: access to Town Hall will require a fob; who wants/needs access?
- Ethics Training available if anyone needs it.
- Warrant Article for STM on 11/19/14 request for \$5000 for the Conservation. Mike prepared explanation of why these funds are important and what they are used for.
- Motion to submit a warrant article for STM on 11/19/14 for Conservation Fund per final draft (per the Chair – Chris) – 2nd & approved.

8:00 PM Forestry

- Marcella has check references for Rupert Grantham and they were all glowing. Said he was very knowledgeable in working with the State. Want to make sure he is aware of the budget.

Discussion about having Rupert mark trees that might be important as legacy trees or that have special significance or characteristics. Note that we aren't marking trees for cutting purposes during this inventory. We want Rupert to include legacy or special trees as he is doing the inventory. Need to decide how to mark the trees to prevent them from ever being cut; this will need to be done in perpetuity.

- Need to determine if Rupert is to be hired under a contract. Check to see if there is a standard contract we can use.
- Need to contact Phil Benjamin to let him know that he was not selected.
- Scope of Services (draft dated 9/8/14) relative to hiring additional consultants for the inventory. Intent is to bring in different perspective on wildlife (specifically bird habitat) in order to enhance the management plan. Money could potentially come from the Conservation Fund.

8:30 PM Beavers

- Tom has contacted the BOH to update them about Baker Pond and the agreement with the State.
- Chris contacted the BOH to discuss Southboro Rd to trap the rest of the beavers but the BOH doesn't see a need at this time as there is no public hazard. Our concern is to trap the rest of the beavers now before there is a problem.
- Tom raised concerns about the Town spending \$1600 to trap 4 beavers (need to confirm that these figures are correct); if this is correct they grossly overpaid. BOH should be aware that this is not typical cost for trapping.
- Southboro Rd beaver dam is holding water but the level is low at this time. We need to do something now.
- Chris will sign an emergency order to trap the rest of the beavers but first we will break the dam to see if they rebuild it. If they do we will need to trap out the rest of the beavers and remove the dam. Copy will be sent to Blythe.
- Need to contact the DPW to see about equipment for removing the dam.

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

Minutes approved on: _____

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