

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

508-529-6286
concomm@uptonma.gov

1 Main St, Box 9
UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01568

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 3/25/2015

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

Members Attending:

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

7:00 PM Beavers at Southboro Rd

- Tom Jango set traps; has trapped one but thinks there is one more.
- Traps were set off but not sure if it was another animal or a person.

7:08 PM Agent's Report – no report submitted (vacation)

7:10 PM 0 Warren St NOI (Corner of Warren & Fowler) M. Allen

- Property owners are Michael & Barbara Davidson
- 5 permanent wetland markers are required per the previous Order of Conditions; Mark has indicated their location on the plan.
- The Town has catch basins and drainage through this property.
- 2012 wetlands were delineated by Judy Schmidt but need to be re-flagged.
- Not expanding the area that is already cleared.
- NOI from 2006 was for the house and grading; the OOC required another NOI be filed for the septic.
- Hearing is continued to April 7th @ 7:15 pm.
- Selby will do a site visit.

7:30 PM 4 Taft St Enforcement Order T. Birdsey

- During site visit for a beaver dam problem Selby notice that the both banks to the brook have been walled.
- Owner (Tom Birdsey) explained that his was done when a previous beaver dam was removed as the water was causing erosion on his property; all sorts of material and debris that were buried years ago by prior owners was being uncovered due to the erosion.
- Mr. Birdsey explained that there was a stone wall there and he hired masons to build up from the original wall but they removed it and built a new wall.
- Fill of sand and crushed stone was used to level the yard.
- This work was done in 2009.
- Concerns as to how this wall impacts drainage and the path of the brook; doesn't seem to be causing any problems.
- This wall is an encroachment in the wetlands – what is the solution for this impact?
- Suggestion that we talk w/ the Army Corp of Engineers and the DEP to see if the Corps "In-Lieu Fee Program" can be used as a means of repayment.

- Another suggestion is to convert some upland elsewhere on the property to create another wetland area to compensate for the wetlands that were filled.
- We will conduct a site visit one the snow has melted to investigate the property.
- Mr. Birdsey did state that he thinks the property had previously been filled as there are lots of debris and construction materials buried around the property.
- Continued this discussion to the meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 7:15 pm.

General/Active Items

Meeting Minutes – motion to accept and sign minutes from 3/11/15 – 2nd & approved.

Website – the revised Land Use Regulations have been updated on website.

OSC – Bill Taylor is working on drafting a letter in response to discussion with a Hopkinton resident about extending Crockett Rd over the conservation land.

LSC – still waiting for snowmelt so that Rupert can begin the Forest Management project; Warren St property still being discussed with BOS. Town manager has been informed of the 1969 Town meeting vote.

Finances/Admin - payroll signed; expense voucher approved and signed; updated account balances provided. Discussion regarding Selby’s salary for FY16 as we have had very low filings this year thus fees collected have been minimal; will need to talk with Blythe. Enough funds are available for salary through 2nd quarter FY16.

Rockwood Meadows – Developer will be going before the Hopkinton Planning Board to discuss the change in location of the parking area.

Technology – Mike will contact Kelly to see about a screen for the main hall.

Turtle Project – Selby will talk with Dan to see when he will be in town again.

8:20 Open Meeting Law

Key items from the workshop on March 23, 2015:

- Email – need to be careful not to offer opinions or decisions via email.
- Agendas – need to be more specific as to items on the agenda.
- Site Visits – don’t need to post site visits; Cannot make decisions, offer opinions, or deliberate at the site visit. Best practice is to post a meeting following the site visit at which discussion and decisions can then be made.
- Meeting Minutes – need to be detailed and contain a list of documents that were discussed at the meeting.

8:50 PM National Grid Letter dated 3/6/2015

- Received Vegetation Maintenance Notification letter for the period of April 1, 2015 thru March 31, 2016. Will discuss this matter at our next meeting on 4/8/15.

8:55 PM Motion to Adjourn – 2nd & Approved

Minutes approved on: _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Document List – 3/25/15

- NOI application for 0 Warrant St (Davidson's) DEP file 311-0693
- Enforcement Order for 4 Taft St property
- Account Balance spreadsheets dated 3/25/15
- National Grid Letter dated 3/6/2015 re: Vegetation Maintenance Notification