

Upton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes April 22, 2015

Members Attending– Chris Scott, Mike Penko, Marcella Stasa, Sandy Lajoie, Alan Miano, Tom Jango, Scott Heim and Mary Overholt (Associate Member) Bill Taylor and Selby

Others: Tom Birdsey, Jody Naze, Tom Dodd, William Taylor

7:00 pm Beavers Southboro Rd.

Discussion about hiring Mike Callahan from Beaver solutions to remove as much of it as possible to discourage the beavers from rebuilding. There has been a lot of rain but the water level is fine. Motion to authorize Mike Callahan to remove the dam for a maximum of \$ 1000, -contingent upon DCR approval of dam removal. 2nd and passed.

Marcella will talk to Val about the beaver dam. Mike will email Natural Heritage and continue to coordinate with Val about repairs to the berms.

7:15 pm 4 Taft St. Enforcement Order

There has been resource area alteration, bank and BVW alteration, by previous owner and current owner Tom Birdsey. The back of property is filled wetland. If you fill wetland, you have to replicate bank. By looking at the coloration of the stones you can tell which of the work is newer. The smaller wall on the left bank allows for water to flow through into the wetland on the side. DEP does not allow for in lieu fee mitigation. There is leftover stone and fill on the left bank.

Tom suggests that 25% of the lower wall should be removed to allow for water to freely flow and for wildlife to pass through. Specifically he should remove the top L in the stream. He also needs to get rid of gravel and white stone. Mr. Birdsey will come back with a rough sketch showing what portions of the wall he will remove, and remove the gravel and stone and come back for the May 13 meeting.

7:45 pm Land question (see attached maps)

Jody Naze resident of Upton, Crockett Rd. would like to put her house on the market. She owns 6 acres and her lot is subdividable. She would like to protect the land in some way from subdivision and preserve it, possibly by gifting it to the town. Her lot is on the Milford border. Two bordering parcels are Milford conservation land. Behind is a lot owned by town of Hopkinton. There is also a nearby by landlocked lot where ownership is uncertain. Peppercorn is on the other side of street behind houses. The land is therefore close to some other open spaces. Most of property in priority habitat, probably wood turtle. The Conservation Commission is probably interested in this land.

Ms. Naze has two options; subdivide and give or sell land to the ConCom, or put a conservation restriction on land, which is more complicated, requiring approval of the selectmen. A benefit of a restriction is the landowner has a lot of input into what uses are allowed. Selby will walk the land Friday am at 9:00.

8:15 pm Moth Study

Tom Dodd, through friends of Upton state forest would like to undertake a Moth study in Upton State Forest 1-2 nights per month. He will use white sheet and lamps to attract the moths and then will photograph what is seen. He will set up near the cottage and CCC way, using power from the cottage. Mike and Cathy are also investigators. Work will occur within 100 feet of wetland. The work will not affect wetlands, except for possible use of generator; gasoline will not be filled on site. He is looking for a letter from the Commission stating if there are issues. He is using mercury vapor lamps, not sure if they would be hazardous if they broke. Sandy noted the Commission is interested in the results. Motion and 2nd to write a letter that there are no issues. Mike abstained.

8:36 pm Agents Report see attached

8:52 Open space

Annual CR walk for Fivefork Farm May 28

Bill Taylor drafted a letter about extending Crockett Rd. for a development that does not have road access. The letter explains what would be required. The requirements are high, including town meeting and being passed at the state level. Chris will send letter and cc HALT. Motion 2nd and passed to send letter.

Land Stewardship - met with Rupert for forestry. He is just starting his work

Rockwood Meadows - Mike provided a few comments on the CR to developer's attorney.

Whitney Parking Area- Sign is approved by the home owner and has been ordered. Parking lot is in good shape, drain is working.

Turtle crossing signs had been up several years ago, but they disappeared. Mike found some more signs. For \$50-75 could put up a few more signs on Fowler St Motion to buy signs, 2nd approved if there is money in the budget.

Appointments Scott and Alan's are up. Both wish to be reappointed.

Budget

The school spent reserve money last year so the new budget is seven half percent less, if the override fails. There is very little to carve out. Motion 2nd and approved to take money all out of the beaver fund which would leave \$4,737 in the beaver fund. Chris also put together a list of grants which the Commission has brought in.

9:50 motion to adjourn

Submitted by Mary Overholt

List of Documents or Visual Aids

Agents Report

Photos of 4 Taft St (on digital camera)

Letter with attachment to Hopkinton landowner

Maps of Jody Naze property

Budget documents