

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

508-529-6286
concomm@uptonma.gov

1 Main St, Box 9
UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01568

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 4/8/2015

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

Members Attending:

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

7:00 PM Beavers at Southboro Rd

- Tom Jango has trapped 3 beavers, he believes these are the last of the beavers at this location; breaks in the dam and feeding piles were done and no further activity was noted.
- Next step is to remove the dam (see Mike's pictures) but this will be difficult to do with equipment. Tom will contact Mike Callahan (Beaver Solutions) to see if he could remove it by hand.
- Also need to notify DCR and Natural Heritage.
- Concerns about the berm that was breached as it is eroding and could cause significant problems with the level of the bog; suggest that we dump some angular or trap rock to keep erosion at a minimum. Again need to discuss w/ DCR and Heritage.
- Check with the DPW to see if they could/would dump the rock or possibly hire Greg Trussell.
- Motion to spend up to \$1500 to purchase and install trap rock in the 2 breached areas – 2nd and approved (5-Y; 1-N and 1-abstention).
- Discussion that perhaps we could do the work thus saving considerable money; second motion made to approve \$500 to purchase the trap rock and fill the breaches ourselves – 2nd and approved (6-Y and 1-abstention).
- Perhaps this could be done in conjunction with Park Serve Day on April 25th if we can have the rock delivered.
- Mike with email DCR and Heritage
- Chris will notify the BOH that the beavers have been trapped.

7:25 PM Continued NOI - 0 Warren St (Corner of Warren & Fowler) M. Allen

- Wetland line, septic and house location have been staked.
- Need to relocate a couple of the bound markers and they need to be marked on the ground.
- No increased disturbance to what has already been cleared.
- Erosion controls are good; no stockpiling of materials on the property.
- Hearing closed. OOC will be drafted for next meeting on 4/22/15.

7:30 PM Agent's Report

- Per submitted report dated 3/26/15 – 4/8/15
- Suggest doing a site visit at 4 Taft St; will contact the owner to see if we could do this prior to our next meeting on 4/22 at 5:30.
- Contacted Judy Schmidt at the DEP to discuss the “In Lieu Fee Program” and she said no as this is not something they accept. Will need to determine what the resolution will be for this violation.

7:55 pm General/Active Items

Meeting Minutes – motion to accept and sign minutes from 3/25/15 – 2nd & approved.

Website – Alan added link for the Pratt Pond Ice Out and did some general cleanup of old links.

OSC – Bill Taylor will provide a draft letter for our next meeting; letter is in response to discussion with a Hopkinton resident about extending Crockett Rd over the conservation land. Also, he spoke w/ a land owner at 9 Crockett Rd that is interesting in donating some land to the Town in order to keep it from being further developed however she doesn't want it for public access. Bill suggested to her that she put a CR on the property and see if Metacomet Land Trust or the Sudbury Valley Trustees would be interested in holding it. It was mentioned that the Con Com could hold the CR but would need BOS approval. The Town may not be interested in owning the land but might be willing to hold a CR. This property does have Priority Rare Species Habitat. Con Com can purchase land without approval of the BOS or Town with the intent to keep it for conservation purposes not necessarily for public access; again it was discussed that we could hold the CR which could restrict public access w/o having to spend any money. Bill will discuss further with the property owner.

LSC – Forester (Rupert) will start work next week; we should coordinate with those involved to make sure all necessary information is being captured during this review; will coordinate by email so as not to delay his time in the field. Deadline to get the management report to Mike Downey is June 15th. Great interest in the Community Garden; there is expected to be a waiting list for plots; Several Scout projects are planned; also a work party is scheduled for 4/18 from 9 am – 2 pm.

Finances/Admin - payroll signed; expense voucher approved and signed; updated account balances will be provided for next meeting (4/22). Denise is on vacation from 4/16 – 4/28 – Selby and Chris will cover office hours.

CR Site Visits – Will schedule Kenneth Village and Cooks Property on Milford St.

Technology – will continue to research smartboards and a screen for the main hall.

Whitney Conservation Area Parking Lot – granite curbs have been moved but suspect that was due to snow plowing; will need volunteers to help move them back in place. No word from Town Counsel regarding the letter; another truck was parked across the easement blocking parking spots, it has been removed. Signage – the parking area sign will not have “Whitney Conservation Area” on it as there will be a kiosk with the WCA name on it; this will save on the cost of the sign as it will be smaller; brief discussion of the posted hours “dawn to dusk” as hunters are allowed access ½ hour before dawn and ½ hour after dusk. It was decided no action needed to be taken as there have been no issues.

FY16 Budget – Blythe alerted Chris that reductions have been made to our expense budget request and the Conservation Fund; all departments need to be prepared for further cuts depending on the outcome of the override ballot.

Turtle Project – Dan has been out and so far has found one male with the receiver.

MassDot Rte 140 Culvert Project – Letter received regarding this project claim that they are exempt from filings; we should find out from Town Counsel if State projects are exempt. Motion to have Blythe contact Town Counsel to see if State projects are exempt from local bylaw filings and fees (specifically this culvert project) – 2nd and approved. Selby will also talk w/ Judy Schmidt at the DEP.

Crosswinds Subdivision Modification – plans submitted for review; Planning Board public hearing will be held on Tuesday 4/28 at 7:15pm; Selby reviewing plans and will discuss at next ConCom meeting on 4/22.

9:00 PM Motion to Adjourn – 2nd & Approved

Minutes approved on: _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Document List – 4/8/15

- Con Com Agenda & Action Item Checklist
- Agent's Report (3/26/15 – 4/8/15)
- Southboro Rd pictures of beaver dam & berms from Mike Penko
- BSC Group Ltr dated 4/1/15 re: MassDot Culvert Replacement Project on Milford St (Route 140)