

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

508-529-6286
concomm@uptonma.gov

1 Main St, Box 9
UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01568

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 5/27/2015

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

Members Attending:

Chris Scott, Marcella Stasa, Mike Penko, Sandy Lajoie, Alan Miano, Tom Jango, and Scott Heim. Selby (Agent)

7:00 PM Beavers at Southboro Rd

- Tom update – suggests that we wait a bit before trapping the remaining beavers unless there is danger of the road being flooded; Tom cannot trap until November if it is determined that the beavers needed to be trapped before then (Nov) someone will have to be hired.
- Question was raised as to why we need permission of the DCR; problem is that we notify them of what needs to be done then we don't hear back and the problem becomes worse as in the case of the existing dam. Suggestion was made to send a notice to the DCR (Val S.) and NHESP of the work we propose to do (trap remaining beavers and remove the dam) and give them a specific timeframe; Marcella expressed concerns about safety and the need for DCR approval; another beaver dam problem is within the State Forest and is flooding a trail/road.
- Letter to be sent via email to the DCR (Val S.) and NHESP (Nancy Putnam) outlining our plans for the Southboro Rd area for July: 1) trap beavers, 2) lower water level then remove the dam and 3) dump rock. If the flooding of the road becomes an issue we will need to act sooner than July on the above plan. Also, as the dam is significantly larger it will be much harder to remove we will need to discuss this with the DPW.

7:20 PM Agents Report

- Discussion of activities per submitted report dated 5/14/15 thru 5/27/15.
- Prepared OOC for Lot 1 Glenview St with conditions as approved at our meeting on 5/13/15 – Commission signed tonight.

7:40 PM General Business/Active Items

Meeting Minutes – motion to accept and sign minutes from 5/13/15 – 2nd & approved.

Website – update from Alan – he is working on fixing links on the site.

OSC & LSC – site walk with SVT at Five Fork Farm on Thursday 5/28 @ 3pm, will review the Farm Plan; suggestion that Selby include the list of CR areas in his report so we can keep track of annual visits; also suggest Denise add a column to our Filing Database for wetland bounds, CR and Deed Restriction info; Bill Taylor walked the Collier property (property off North St near the Mass Pike) with Metacomet, they noted some logging activity and beaver activity. Metacomet will provide a report; they (Metacomet) are interested in taking the land as a gift and will ask the owners about the possibility of a CR; Alicia Colman of SVT will be guiding a walk on July 10th at the USF, SWF and Whitney Conservation Area.

Finances/Admin - payroll signed; reminder as we are getting near the close of the FY that invoices/vouchers need to be submitted; Denise provided info on tent cards for Con Com members to display during meetings; motion was made to purchase the card stock and holders – 2nd & approved.

Whitney Conservation Area Parking Lot – response from town counsel regarding our question about the CR; as this was labeled as “Confidential – Executive Session Material” – will post for executive session discussion at next meeting; a request was made to take a look at the parking area during the site walk on 5/28/15 to determine if the boat is impacting the parking area.

Rockwood Meadow – CR & Easement documents provided by the owner’s attorney; will discuss at next meeting.

Technology – need to follow up w/ Kelly McElreath to see if there is any money in the Town Hall renovation budget to purchase a screen for the main hall; also perhaps a smart board for Little Town Hall conference room.

Turtle Project – Mike has Turtle Crossing signs and has discussed with the DPW Director about where to put them – looking at Fowler St near Davidson’s golf course.

Stefan’s Land – we have lost the easement for vehicle access to the property – not sure why; will look at Orchard St access on Friday 5/29 w/ the DPW Director; the Town still owns the 3rd lot up from Mechanic St -- could this be used for access?

Ryan Parcel – Mike Ryan owns a 1 acre parcel off Meadow Dr that he is looking to preserve; he has approached Metacomet and has applied for and is eligible for a tax credit, Metacomet requires a CR on the land; OR he could donate the land to the town for care, custody and control of Conservation Commission; OR Con Com could purchase the land (not a gift) w/o town approval; the land is mapped as rare species habitat. Some further investigation is needed and further discussion. Motion to authorize OSC to ask for clarification from Town Counsel (through Blythe) on gifts of land through the Conservation Act – 2nd and approved.

Forestry – waiting for Rupert’s report; hoping to have it prior to our next meeting so we have time to review and comment prior to the grant deadline (6/15); need to do an Outreach Plan in conjunction with the Forest Management Plan; Outreach Plan covers promotional materials, public meetings, site walks and educating the public prior to any action from Management Plan such as cutting. A timeline would be helpful; Marcella has asked Rupert to send what he has by 6/3 then meet w/ us at our meeting on 6/10. Propose setting a special meeting on Monday, 6/8 at 7pm – Denise will find a meeting space. Due to change of personnel Mass Audubon cannot perform services of the contract at this time; they are willing to provide assistance at a later date at no charge; motion to cancel the contract with Mass Audubon and get input later in the summer – 2nd and approved.

8:50 PM Motion to Adjourn – 2nd & Approved

Minutes approved on: _____

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Document List – 5/27/15

- Con Com Agenda
- Agent's Report (5/14/15 – 5/27/15)
- Rockwood Meadow Easement Deed and CR Documents (for next meeting)