

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

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1 Main St, Box 9
UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01568

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 6/10/2015

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 and Tom Jango
Mary Overholt (Associate Member)

7:10 PM General Business/Active Items

Agent's Report – dated 5/28/15 – 6/10/15

Meeting Minutes – motion to accept and sign minutes from 5/27/15 – 2nd & approved; motion to accept and sign minutes from meeting on 6/8/15 – 2nd & approved.

Finances/Admin - payroll & expense voucher signed; reminder as we are getting near the close of the FY that invoices/vouchers need to be submitted; we have quite a bit of money remaining in our expense account, per Val S. at DCR (USF) we can go ahead and dump stone on the berms for erosion control purposes so Mike Penko will look into purchasing the stone; we need to hold off on any further questions to Town Counsel until after July 1(new FY16).

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.

7:30 PM DPW Road Projects

V. Roy, DPW Director

- DPW provided a list of 5 roads that they will be paving: Cross St, RR Ave, Mendon St, Maple Ave and Southboro Rd.
- Cross St & RR Ave are full-depth reclamation for entire length. RDA needed for RR Ave.
- Mendon St (Chestnut St to town line) & Maple Ave – milling and hand work; erosion controls will be used.
- Southboro Rd – milling and hand work; an RDA will be required (erosion controls).
- Will submit an RDA for Southboro Rd and RR Ave.
- DPW would like to do a blanket maintenance plan (Annual Permit) for routine projects i.e. road work, culvert clearing (beavers are not routine); a scope of work and list of streets would be presented; Activity notification would be provided prior to starting a project; DPW Director wants to keep everything upfront and transparent.

General Business/Active Items (continued)

Whitney Conservation Area – discussion of Kopelman & Paige letter (dated 5/26/15) in response to the Commission's questions regarding parking easement; moving forward try to work with the property owner; keep things friendly but be vigilant to keep an eye on the parking area; MP suggested that we have an MOU w/ Mr. Potheau regarding snow plowing; he will continue to plow the lot and we will allow him to use the spot closest to his garage but whatever he parks there must be perpendicular to the trail; parallel

parking creates a problem for anyone parked in the upper spots. This keeps are spots clear and also protects whatever he parks from being accidentally hit by cars backing out of those spots; MS pointed out that there is no overnight parking allowed and is concerned that if he has a vehicle parked there it send the message that it is ok to park overnight; AM suggest we stay within the language of the existing easement document; we need to have our own snow plowing policy not create an MOU; Alan also has concerns about the K&P comment that landscaping within the Easement Area is solely within the province of the Commission as this could potentially impact the owners access; if the owner is parking in such a way as to affect our parking area we can politely talk w/ him.

8:10 PM Forest Stewardship Plan

Rupert Grantham

Draft Forest Stewardship Plan reviewed by the Commission at posted meeting on 6/8/15 – comments/feedback were submitted to Rupert; review & discussion of the comments were taken in numbered order: #1 & 2 - “Property Overview” section and discussion for name change for the area possibly “North Upton Open Space”; #3 - can change language for prescriptions to be recommendations and not definitive commitments; #4 – management could include clear-cuts to promote other grown and regeneration; multi-age and even-age stands can be encouraged; the plan can be modified in the future as other information (reports) becomes available; #5 – prepare a document(s) showing meets and bounds of the parcels involved and vehicle access areas; #6 – Whitney CA does have easement access for property management but not a landing area; Howarth Glen CA has very poor access but possibly could be through the neighbor’s property with a landing area in the field; suggest creating permanent skid trails that could be used in the future if necessary; access from George Hill Rd (Grafton) to Warren Brook Watershed CA is very overgrown but we do own it; #7 – access issues lend to a “No-Cut Reserve” which provides and education opportunity to showcase various types of management styles (include in Outreach doc); keep things flexible to allow for future changes of the long-term plan as information becomes available; #8 – Carbon Inventory - suggest adding a couple of sentences just to address this but doesn’t need to be too extensive or detailed at this time; #9 – Carbon Credits – again add some basic language; #10 – Management Practices – change to recommended; #11 – Forest Stand Map – has been updated; #12 – suggest removing the names of soil types and just leave descriptions. Outreach Plan is the next phase Marcella is preparing an outline proposal for educating land owners and the public of the Forest Management Program.

General Business/Active Items (continued)

Ryan Parcel (1 acre parcel off Meadow Dr) only can receive a tax credit if there is a Conservation Restriction on the property, OR if the Town accepts the land under the care, custody and control of the Conservation Commission, OR if the deed for the property states care, custody and control of the Conservation Commission; should we approach the BOS about accepting this land as a gift (with stipulation that it be named for the owner w/ a sign) there could be a small trail or public park on this land - a motion was made to approach the BOS to ask if they would be willing to accept a gift of land to be under the care, custody and control of the Conservation Commission – 2nd & approved; if BOS is not interested in accepting this land we will not pursue; there is potential for access to a larger property that abuts this land; OSC will approach the BOS.

9:35 PM Motion to Adjourn – 2nd & Approved

Minutes approved on: _____

Document List – 6/10/15

- Con Com Agenda & Action Checklist
- Agent's Report (5/26/15 – 6/10/15)
- DPW Dir email (6/2/15) re: Road Construction projects
- Kopelman & Paige letter dated 5/26/15
- Forest Stewardship Plan (draft) and comment/feedback documents