

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

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1 Main St, Box 9
UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01568

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 7/22/2015

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

Members Attending:

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

7:10 PM NOI – DPW Projects

V. Roy

- Blanket NOI for routine maintenance and repair projects such as culvert clearing/cleaning (anything to keep culverts flowing).
- Tree pruning in public right-of-ways in order to prevent hazards or for safety concerns.
- Easement clearing or mowing.
- Maintenance of infrastructure.
- Will file and activity notification w/ the Commission before doing any work and will review w/ Selby and have site visits.
- Need to be concerned w/ habitat areas (NHESP).
- Need to replace the hay bales with straw bales or wattles for erosion control.
- Must file this NOI with the DEP.
- Hearing continued to 8/26/15 meeting.

Discussed w/ Vin the possibility of the DPW removing the debris we remove from sections of the beaver dam at Southboro Rd (if we do this project). Question is what do we do w/ the material? Could the material we remove be moved somewhere else on the State Forest property? Tom J. is working on getting someone to remove the dam and determine how much material will be removed.

7:25 PM 101 Crockett Rd (amended NOI)

K. Colwell

- Renovating the house (NOI previously filed) and need to remove several trees.
- Application included very specific info given on the trees to be removed or pruned.
- Some trees that they only wanted to trim/prune are in danger of infestation so Chris S. recommended removing them entirely.
- Trees outside the 100' buffer are not w/in Con Com jurisdiction.
- Arborist removing the trees needs to be careful especially if trees are infested w/ moths.
- Will use a crane to remove trees near the shoreline.
- Will keep the yard natural with some shrubs (no grass) and are looking to redo the steps.
- Original OOC was recorded at the Worcester Registry of Deeds; as amending the original no need to re-file with the DEP.
- Con Com will issue a letter regarding trees.

7:55 PM Mass Audubon

S. Covino

- Presentation on Cost Effective Green Infrastructure in the Blackstone River Watershed.
- Encouraging LID development.
- Developing 5 case studies and will hold workshops in the fall.
- Will offer a Technical Assistance Program for towns.
- MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems).
- Looking to tailor projects for Towns.
- Con Com suggests working w/ or doing a presentation to the Planning Board.
- Stephanie asked if any concerns about Stormwater Management.
- For LID – does the Town have bylaws or specific regs? Creative LID practices and need to foster sense of cooperation.

8:20 PM Crosswinds

C. Boardman

- Declaration of Restriction from the Glen Echo project was provided to J. Antonellis so he could see language in order to create one pertinent to Crosswinds.
- 19 lots will have the conservation restriction and bounds will be installed.
- Will need to run the draft by town counsel (forward to Blythe and Ken Picard); do BOS and Con Com both sign?
- We will wait to hear from town counsel & the BOS and will sign at our meeting on Aug 12th if approved.
- Motion to accept the CR pending approval of town counsel – 2nd & approved; members will attend the BOS meeting on 8/4 for their discussion of the CR.

8:35 PM General Business/Active Items

Agent's Report – per submitted report dated 7/8 – 7/22/15.

Beavers @ Southboro Rd

- Tom J met w/ Greg Trussell @ the site to discuss removing the entire dam – it would be a week's work to remove the whole thing; discussed removing sections (roughly half the dam) by working from both sides; Greg charges \$1000/8 hr day including transporting equipment to the site; estimates to remove half the dam would be 3 days' work. Removing the lodge will be another whole days' work; Greg thinks he can get his equipment in there w/o mats.
- Perhaps we could still engage the Scouts to help remove material.
- No guarantee that the beavers won't rebuild.
- Will we need a police detail if we need to remove the piles from the roadside? Detail won't be needed for Greg's work.
- Motion to hire Greg Trussell for 3 days at \$1000 per day for the removal of the beaver dam as pending approval of DCR & Natural Heritage (contact Jody at DCR) – 2nd & approved (4-approved, 1-opposed and 1-abstention).
- Should we contact Mike Callahan of Beaver Solutions to see if another pond leveler should be installed? How many pipes would be needed?
- Work needs to be done soon while the water is low.
- DCR may have a site/area where we can spread the material that is removed from the dam.

Meeting Minutes – motion to approve minutes from 6/24/15 and 7/8/15 – 2nd and approved.

Website – Forest Management Plan has been posted to the website; Alan M fixed the broken link for the Climate Change doc.

OSC – attending the BOS meeting on 8/4 to discuss the Ryan property donation to the town; discussed at the previous BOS meeting but one of the Selectmen was absent so they deferred making a decision until their next meeting (8/4) . Need to ask town counsel about bargain purchases or gifts and how does this involve the BOS. Can Con Com acquire property? Motion to ask town counsel the following: a) if Con Com can acquire land through a bargain purchase; b) is this considered a gift, and c) do we have the

authority to purchase land 2nd & approved. Even if Con Com can purchase do we want to exclude the BOS? An appraisal may be needed for the seller.

LSC – SVT Mass Lift / Americorp volunteers looking to connect Upton’s trails w/ surrounding town’s trails. They are available for any other needs for assistance. Green Certificate as part of Forestry Plan: means agreeing to responsible forest management and we would have some benefits from being part of a group. We need to vote if we want to participate there are no costs involved.

Finances/Admin – expense vouchers & payroll signed.

Motions:

- To issue and sign the COC for 53 Fiske Mill Rd – 2nd & approved.
- To accept revised memo to the BOA regarding Wetlands Abatement -2nd & approved.

Rockwood Meadow – finalizing CR document; will send to town counsel for final review.

Whitney Conservation Area – trailer is parked near (or in) the town’s parking easement; Selby will visit the site.

Moth Study – Tom Dodd’s study has identified 92 species to date.

10:00 PM Motion to Adjourn – 2nd & Approved

Minutes approved on: _____

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Document List – 7/22/15

- 1) Con Com Agenda & Action Checklist
- 2) Agent’s report 7/8/15 – 7/22/15
- 3) Mass Audubon Flyer – Cost Effective Green Infrastructure in the Blackstone River Watershed