

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

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1 Main St, Box 9
UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01568

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 7/8/2015

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

Members Attending:

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

7:00 PM Beavers – Southboro Rd

- Tom has been keeping an eye on this site; he has been cutting holes in the dam to see if the beavers are actively repairing it and he has not seen any activity.
- Removing the dam is going to be a tremendous project as it is very large and has tons of material; question as to how to remove and where to put it once it is removed.
- Tom suggests that we dig the channel deeper as this may discourage the beavers from re-damming this area.
- Suggestions for removing the dam are to contact the boy scouts to see if they would be interested in providing labor; contact Greg Trussell and have him take a look to see if he could remove it w/ his equipment. Tom will contact. Mike will coordinate dam removal with Natural Heritage. We need to amend/modify the existing OOC – will put this on the agenda for next meeting on 7/22 at 7pm.
- Val S. has retired from DCR but he did give permission for Commission to install stone to reinforce the berms. Mike will contact landscaper to deliver the gravel.

7:15 PM General Business/Active Items

Agent's Report – per submitted report dated 6/25/15 – 7/8/15

- Cross Winds deed restriction – need to check w/ Joe Antonellis on status; this needs to be in place before selling lots; Chris will contact. We can refuse to sign-off on any more building permits; Motion was made to allow Selby to not sign building permits until the Deed Restriction is done – 2nd & approved.
- Added Afonso's 3 lots off West River St for CR review.

Meeting Minutes – not available will sign at next meeting.

Website – will make a pdf of the Forest Stewardship Plan and put on website.

Finances/Admin – payroll signed; will prepare FY16 accounts for next meeting; in 2010 the Commission issued a document to the Assessor's titled "List of Items Needed to Review for Wetland Status Tax Abatement" Denise has updated the document and corrected minor typos; will email for discussion at next meeting.

OSC – discussing the Hiya Realty Trust parcel (50± acres) off North St that abuts existing OS to see if it is something we want to pursue. Also looking at the Ryan Parcel (off Meadow Dr) - Bill T. will schedule a meeting with the BOS for some time in August; planning a "Full Moon Paddle" event at Lake Wildwood for some time in September.

LSC – purchased lumber with remaining funds in our expense budget; this will be used for various projects including making more raised beds at the community garden.

Rockwood Meadow – documents still being reviewed by attorneys.

Whitney Conservation Area – now a camper is parked near (or in) the town’s parking easement; will keep an eye on this site.

Turtle Crossing Signs – Mike contacted the DPW – they will install the signs.

Moth Study – Tom Dodd’s study underway; so far, fewer moth species noted than expected..

Forest Stewardship Plan – submitted to the DCR; we received a stamped copy indicating it was received by the DCR; Mass Audubon will review and provide their input later this summer; We need to decide what we want to do then Outreach will be the next step; possibly do and RFP for marking the timber.

Disclosure – Sandy Lajoie informed the Commission that her daughter, Denise Lajoie Child, has been appointed as “Acting Section Chief of Wetland Program” at the DEP Central Office in Worcester. Denise will recuse herself from all actions in Upton and Grafton and will assign our activities to someone else in her office.

North St Pump station (near Glen Echo) – Selby will talk with the DPW about discharge from the pump station – it is damaging trails and eroding the cart path; could the possibly use a hose and discharge to the detention basin? Also see if they can clear some of the trees from the berm at the detention basin.

8:40 PM Motion to Adjourn – 2nd & Approved

Minutes approved on: _____

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Document List – 7/8/15

- 1) Con Com Agenda & Action Checklist
- 2) Agent’s report 6/25/15 – 7/8/15