



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 9/9/2015

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

Members Attending:

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

7:00 PM Guest -- Kyle Pilkington, Grad Student at Clark University

- Observing meeting.

7:05 PM Beavers @ Southboro Rd

- Still waiting to hear from DCR about where to dump materials from removal of the dam.
- Tom Jango gave brief update of the beaver activity.

7:10 PM 4 Taft St – Enforcement Order Tom Birdsey

- Discussion to remove the enforcement order that was issued March 11, 2015.
- Selby reviewed and agreed that all activity that was requested has been completed: blocks were removed from the wall to allow the stream to pass through and recharge the wetland; gravel pile has been removed and grass clippings.
- A letter will be issued to lift/remove the Enforcement Order; Con Com to sign at next meeting.

7:25 PM Agent's Report

- Per report dated 8/27/15 – 9/9/15
- Crosswinds – invite Chad Boardman to next meeting to discuss Lot 8 (“Garden in the Woods” open space lot).
- Mendon St diesel spill – Clean Harbors has installed rip rap and gravel at the site; Con Com would prefer to see the gravel removed and hydric soils be used in its place; will issue an Emergency Certificate under the WPA and the Town’s Bylaw; invite them to come to next meeting to discuss.
- Warren Woods – CRs behind private property to be reviewed; Kibbe land (approx. 6 acres) is currently in tax taking according to the Assessors.

8:00 PM General Business/Active Items

OSC – Stumpy’s is removing the tree on the trail at Whitney Conservation Area tomorrow (9/10).

LSC – will be building kiosks at Stefans land on Saturday 9/12.

Admin/Finances – motion to renew the Northern Woodlands Magazine – 2nd & approved; motion to sign expense voucher – 2nd & approved; provided current financial info for accounts.

Warren St Town Parcel – Mike is still researching the history of the parcel after the 1969 town meeting vote which placed it under the control of the Commision. Blythe suggested checking w/ Tracey in the Assessor’s Office to see if this parcel was deeded to Con Com in 1969.

Ryan Parcel (off Meadow Dr) – BOS voted to accept but they did not include language to put this land in the care, custody and control of the Con Com; Mike Ryan wants to have that in the language but do we want to ask the BOS to revote w/ the appropriate language? It was discussed to let the vote stand as is.

117 Hopkinton Rd – submitted a Request for COC – Selby has visited the site several times and needs to do final review; he recommends that Con Com sign the COC and hold until he gives the ok; also owe \$100 fee. Motion to issue the COC for 117 Hopkinton Rd pending Selby’s final review – 2nd & approved.

Pulte – Hartford Ave S project – no additional info but will need to file an ANRAD.

Stefans – met w/ CPC about using CPA funds for an access road, exploring options other than Orchard St strip; Alternatives include purchasing a 6 acre lot off Mechanic St that could potentially provide access; town would need to purchase this land; need to do a site walk at this property.

Forestry Land Group Certification Program – adds another level to our forestry plan; MaryAnn Piche – presentation on wildlife of forestry parcels; public relations; no word from Mass Audubon as yet; Municipalities are eligible to participate; there are several towns that have signed up; there are services available as a group; audits are conducted randomly; Motion to sign onto the MA Private Lands Group Certification Program – 2nd & approved.

STM Warrant Articles – articles need to be submitted by 9/25; suggestions for \$5000 for Conservation Fund (since this was not done at the ATM) and perhaps some additional funding for the Agent. Blythe met w/ Grafton & Northbridge Town Manager’s about sharing an Agent; Grafton is interested they have an Agent & Assistant Agent (who would be working with us?)What qualifications does the Assistant have? They were interested in how many projects our Agent has review and our fee schedule. We can provide the agents report.

State Conflict of Interest Law – several workshops being conducted by the state if interested; Chris will forward the email.

Whitney Conservation Area – easement issues, violations and encroachments; boat is gone but boat trailer and camper is still there; we have the right to be on the property as Conservation members and private citizens; discussion that Con Com should enlist the OSC/LSC to mark the line on the WCA easement to clearly delineate or if necessary to hire a surveyor specifically the street to the NE corner and stonewall to street; we should give Mr. Potheau a choice of what material he would like to see used to mark the boundary. Motion to hire a professional surveyor to mark the 4 corners of the WCA easement w/ pins – 2nd & approved. Selby to contact the original surveyor (Glen Odone) to get a quote.

9:10 PM Motion to Adjourn – 2nd & Approved

Minutes approved on: _____

Document List – 9/9/15

- 1) Con Com Agenda & Action Checklist
- 2) Agent’s report 8/13/15 to 8/26/15
- 3) Financial reports (current)