



TOWN OF WESTBOROUGH MASSACHUSETTS

Conservation Commission

Town Hall, West Main
Westborough, MA 01581

DATE: February 26, 2013
RE: Minutes of Meeting for February 19, 2013

Members Present: Chairman Koenigsberg, Member Buckalew, Member Kimball,
Member Kessler

Members Absent: Member Cushing, Member Lundberg, Member Donley

Agenda Items:

6:30PM – Discussion – Westborough Community Land Trust, Stewardship Management Activities.

Trail Maintenance

Hank Rauch was present to discuss the maintenance of the existing trails and the future updating of the maps. They will be reinstating the existing trails since the forest management cutting and marking them appropriately for hikers. After careful review a few trails will be abandoned by placing brush to deter walkers, these trails WCLT is unable to maintain any longer. Some of these trails were created by hikers and fishermen and were not originally trails. Mr. Burn said the map will uniquely mark the trails as fisherman trails, and rough to pass, Chairman Koenigsberg agrees with this. Member Buckalew asked if the map could clearly mark that you need to cross the spillway. Member Kessler asked about the possibility of a bridge across the spillway, the Conservation Officer would need to discuss this with Dam Inspectors. This would be a substantial bridge project and at this point WCLT is not looking to take a job of this size on. Chairman Koenigsberg mentioned they need to work within their budget allowances. WCLT will be placing a kiosk in the vicinity of the picnic shelter and will work with the Conservation Officer to the exact location. The East side of the Piccadilly Brook area will not be touched for the most part, due to the anticipating future forest management practices. Mr. Burn said they would need to work with DPW for proper sign postings for pedestrian crossing; the Conservation Officer will approach DPW on this subject. Basically they are proposing to maintain the trails keeping them passable and will update the maps when they are able.

Mr. Rauch stated Fire Roads will be maintained by DPW and in some areas the trails will be re-routed onto the Fire Road for about 3-5' rather than having the trail and Fire Road run alongside each other. Member Kessler disagrees with this. Mr. Burn suggested the Commission arrange a site walk to review this re-routing if they have concerns on future trail plans. GPS readings have been taken on trails and fire roads, haul roads are being abandoned and GPS readings were not taken, the data has not been processed yet. Mr. Burn said the standard white triangle signs will be posted at visible lengths, marking boundaries, but trail name signs will not be posted at this time. Member Kessler made the suggestion to ask the Town to work with the budget for more signage.

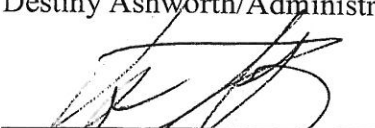
All Members questions and concerns were answered.

Bog Bridge Replacement

Mr. Burn said Bog Bridge Replacement is at more of an exploration stage, and WCLT is looking for the Commission's input. WCLT has areas of interest and are looking for a solution. Mill Pond has a bunch of South Side Bog Bridges that they are looking to fix slowly. These bridges last about 7 years and were last fixed between 2001 and 2008, at a cost of approximately \$100 a bridge due to a great deal on product from JB Sawmill. Mr. Burn wants to work with Don Moquin. Building Department, however due to an unfortunate mistake in the past, which WCLT learned from, the Building Department is now requiring an onsite Structural Engineer's expertise, oversight and inspection which approximately is at an expense of about \$9000 for the construction of each 12' bridge. Member Buckalew asked if these bridges are better in some places than in others, and asked if they are looking to block water and flow? Mr. Burn is looking to do this type of bridge in a non flowing yet wet area. Mr. Burn will compile the sketches, spec sheets and any other Bog Bridge materials and present this to the Commission in the near future. Mr. Burn stated they also need to inform DCR every April 1 of projects for the year and obtain permission. The Conservation Officer will look into the current Order and exemptions and if the current Order can be amended to accommodate these types of projects and report back to the Commission at the March 12, 2013 meeting. WCLT is in no rush and will focus on trail relocation this summer, the bridges are in the research planning stages still.

Member Buckalew made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Member Kimball seconded, unanimously voted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Destiny Ashworth/Administrative Assistant


Chairman Koehnigsberg
Conservation Commission