

Meeting Date: 23-11-30
Meeting Location: Hybrid Teams / 2nd Floor Meeting Room
Minutes Approved: 23-12-14

Members Present: Carl Hommel, Susan Cahalan, Bob Sweet, Lea Whiting, Tim Aicardi, Peter Coffin

Members Absent: Mike Ammendolia

Conservation Agent: Isabella Genova

Recording: https://youtu.be/ob8yBBMLaSA?si=DQdVm1vISIAa_IHr

Others: Jared Wheelock, Richard Corcoran, William Halsing from Land Planning, Margaret Bacon from Civil Site Engineering

Quorum reached at 7:04 and the recording started. The meeting is called to order by Chairman Carl Hommel and the Conservation Commission members introduce themselves.

Correspondence

- Decided not to renew subscription to MassDEP reporter for \$270/year.
- Commissioners signed COC for 90 Park St. following the 11/09 meeting.

74 Northbridge Rd

Discuss the request to extend Order of Conditions for DEP # 218-0803. William Halsing of Land Planning Inc. was present. No work has been started yet. Commissioners will attend a site visit within the next two weeks to confirm that the wetland flagging has remained the same. If there are no issues, Commissioners approve the extension at the 12/14 meeting.

Intro

Introduce new agent, Isabella Genova. Discuss role for preparing for meetings and which Commissioners want physical copies prepared before meetings.

42 Millville St

DEP # 213-711. Engineer Margaret Bacon of Civil Site Engineering and owner Richard Corcoran present.

Application for a building permit was flagged for review by the Commission because the OOC expired. Bacon explained the majority of the work was completed shortly after the OOC was issued on 23-08-06. The OOC authorized replication and the applicant now proposes constructing a vernal pool instead. After discussion with the Commission, it was decided to follow the NOI as written and complete replication without modification. Then the applicant will submit an as-built plan to have the Certificate of Compliance issued. This will occur following a site walk and one growing season for the replication area. After the COC is issued, Corcoran could file a new NOI to build a vernal pool.

The building permit that was placed on hold will be released.

Meadow Brook Woods

Present is property abutter Jared Wheelock.

Discussion of the construction of a bog bridge by volunteers and the BVNEMBA (Blackstone Valley New England Mountain Bike Association). BVNEMBA has offered to pay for and install the bridge (\$900). Commissioners reviewed site plan drawings of the Puncheon style bridge, materials used, and the location of the bridge on the trail. Currently, hikers and mountain bikers are diverting on Mr. Wheelock's property, climbing over a historic stone wall, to get by the unpassable flooded area.

Currently there is a beaver dam in the flooded area. Mr. Wheelock says that they cycle every 2-3 years rebuilding the dam.

Lea makes motion that Lea and Isabella will draft a Request for Determinability. The Commission will review the RDA at the 12/14 meeting. If a negative determination is found based on the improvement of trail standards, then the volunteers may move forward with bridge construction.

Lake Nipmuc Water Level

Alan Tetreault caught 2 two-year-old beavers at the outflow for Lake Nipmuc. Billy Palmer went and broke up the dam. The expectation is that there will be no further beaver activity and the water level will stay at an acceptable level through next April

The Lake Nipmuc outflow was previously evaluated, and a determination made that the usual "beaver deciever" would not work. There is new technology and Lea proposed and it was agreed there could be an on-site evaluation to see if it would work.

Lake Nipmuc Task Force

Report by Bob Sweet. He has reached out to Shea Engineering about installing a water level gauge and to see if they know the historical mean water level, with no response. It was noted that USGS or the highway department may have contour elevations of the pond, for historic levels. Susan found USGS historic data for 121.5 ft above sea level.

Chair Carl stated that the goal is to have a water level gauge installed at the Town Beach for Dan Byer to monitor the water level.

Chapter 91 regulations: we request that the Task Force recommend hiring a consultant to better understand the Ch. 91 regulations. This will allow the Conservation Commission and the Town to better understand the Great Pond regulations and know which activities require permits. Isabella will begin to research Ch. 91 for the next Task Force Meeting on 12/19.

Gaskill Conservation Restriction

Members reviewed the final draft of Gaskill CR. Lea moved and Bob seconded a motion to forward the CR to the Select Board for review. Peter recused because he is an abutter. Passed unanimously.

43 Quisset (Pearson Farm) Conservation Restriction

Isabella reports estimate from Guerriere and Halnon, the company that initially surveyed the area, for \$1800 to resurvey and install 5 new rebar markers flush in the ground on the perimeter of the Farmstead envelope. Discussion that not all 5 markers may need to be replaced, Lea will contact Mike about which 2 were removed. Commissioners will discuss approving the estimate at the 12/14 meeting.

Discussion of building a better working relationship with the property owner to ensure that the Conservation Restriction is more closely followed in the future, Lea will be contact person.

Sylvan Springs

Review site inspection report and Upton Enforcement order. Site walk is scheduled for 12/15 at 10am with engineer Desheng Mary Overholt, the Upton Conservation Agent.

December Meetings

12/14 scheduled. 12/28 leave on the schedule for now. If applicants are comfortable waiting till January for the next public meeting, then 12/28 will be cancelled.

Budget

\$1000 training budget, adding Isabella to MACC and getting the Wetlands Certificate

Lea does not need to be reimbursed for MACC training. Carl and Bob will determine their totals for training and mileage to be reimbursed.

Received Alan's beaver invoice for \$425.00.

Filing fee is \$105 for online signing to be recorded at Registry of Deeds. Isabella will mail.

Isabella to work on the fiscal budget for next year.

Building Permits

- COM-23-12 149 Uxbridge Rd – install fence between Royal Fireside and Lew's Lawnmower, still on hold
 - Isabella to find out if the fence is there.
- RES-23-330 9 George St – add family room, not jurisdictional
- RES-23-333 49 Cape Rd – enclose front porch, not jurisdictional
- RES-23-338 17 Thayer Rd – build greenhouse/shed, on hold as may be jurisdictional
 - Need a site plan on where the shed is, to determine if it is within the buffer zone
- RES-23-341 24 Taft Ave – construct new home, not jurisdictional
- RES-23-344 28 Rawson Farm Dr – build house, same lot as RES-23-310, also not jurisdictional
- RES-23-347 42 Millville St – new construction, on hold as may be jurisdictional
 - Discussed above, will release hold.

Minutes

Town is contracting someone to back track minutes.

Site visits

Tim will call for 2 Nipmuc Rd to inspect if erosion control slipped.

Isabella will reach out to John Nenart of The Meehan Group to set up an inspection for 45 Uxbridge Rd.

Motion to adjourn by Bob Sweet seconded by Lea Whiting, passed unanimously, 8:39pm.