

*Damon Tinio, Chairman
Peter Coffin, Vice Chairman*



*Michael Ammendolia
William Aten
Timothy Aicardi*

TOWN OF MENDON

Conservation Commission
Mendon Town Hall
Mendon, Massachusetts 01756

Meeting Minutes of June 4, 2015

Attending: P. Coffin, D. Tinio, M. Ammendolia; Elizabeth Newlands, Phil Truesdell, Mass Wildlife; John Gomersall, 58 Quissett Rd; Bruce Clifton, 54 George St; Bob & Conor Sweet, 50 Milford St; Dan Byer, Parks Department; Cole & Lara Peterson, 10 Taft Ave; Fred Lapham, Shea Engineering; Becky Kalagher, Bay State Trail Riders Association; Gail Wellman, Notary Public.

Vice-Chairman P. Coffin called the meeting to order at 8:12 PM.

The Commissioners signed the Conservation Restriction for 5 Strawberry Lane with Fred Lapham of Shea Engineering. The Restriction will be placed on 13.5 acres of habitat to be left in its natural state for the Eastern Box Turtle. The Conservation Commission will hold the Restriction and monitor the property accordingly. The area has been marked with signs and perimeter markers.

The Commissioners discussed the potential for a 20x6 dock at the Mendon Town Beach with Cole Peterson. He would like to build it for his Eagle Scout project. It would extend from the current public access path and allow people to launch canoes and kayaks more easily. It would also be removable during the winter like the rest of the docks at the Town Beach. It would be built on floating drums and would be chained down to concrete underneath the water in order to be anchored in place. The Commissioners were in favor of such a project. They asked C. Peterson to come back to a future meeting with a report on the project that could be put in the Commission's files. The Commissioners will research the proper permitting procedures for docks in the meantime. **All members were in agreement.**

The Commissioners discussed the potential for a volleyball court at the Mendon Town Park with Conor Sweet. He would like to build it for his Eagle Scout project. It would be a sand court surrounded by wood framing. Some fill will need to be removed in some areas but it will be used to level other areas in order to create a level court. The net will be removable for the winter. The court will be 30x60 and will be dug one foot deep. Vice-Chairman P. Coffin had some concerns about erosion during the construction phase and asked that some research be done into what type of erosion control would be appropriate. His suggestion was to spread straw once the area is seeded, which would also help save the seed. The Commissioners asked C. Sweet to come back to a future meeting with a report on the project that includes erosion control and could be put in the Commission's files. **All members were in agreement.**

The Commissioners discussed the Quissett Wildlife Conservation Easement with Phil Truesdell and Elizabeth Newlands of Mass Wildlife and Becky Kalagher of the Bay State Trail Riders Association (BSTRA). Mass Wildlife had concerns over the trail improvement ideas that were proposed by the BSTRA. In particular, one of the proposed bridges seemed excessive and the necessary machinery for such a project would be too disruptive. Mass Wildlife also noted that the last Forest Management Plan that was done for the property was in 2005. The plans last ten years, so it is time to work with a forester to create a new one. John Gomersall of 58 Quissett Road noted that some of the property falls within Priority Habitat as noted by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) and asked how this would factor into future plans for the property. E. Newlands responded that the plans that are created would be submitted to NHESP and they would be able to comment on the proposal. M. Ammendolia explained that he supported BSTRA bringing in gravel to fill in holes in the trails to make them safer for horses. He is unsure how this suggestion turned into more of a road-like structure and bridge rather than simple trails. B. Kalagher stated that she would work with P. Truesdell to downscale the proposed project and bring the revision to the Commission for their review. Regarding a new management plan for the property, the Commissioners would like to investigate whether this could be paid for using Community Preservation Act funds. They would also like to have Anne Mazar attend a

meeting to get her thoughts on the property since she has been involved in the process. Then the Commission will get back in touch with Mass Wildlife with their ideas going forward. **All members were in agreement.**

The Commissioners discussed the fencing for 34 George Street. Metacomet Land Trust was concerned that the turtles would not be able to cross over a stone wall and wondering if a split rail fence could be used in its place. The Commissioners had decided on stone in the past because it would be permanent and would not require any replacement like a wooden fence would. The Commission reviewed their previous correspondence with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) and found that they had approved either a stone wall or a split rail fence, whatever the Commissions' selection was. The Commission decided to stand by their previous decision of using a stone wall. **All Commissioners were in agreement.**

The Commissioners reviewed four Requests for Jurisdictional Project Determinations:

The first was for 21 Crestview Drive for a shed. The work was determined to have no impact on wetlands. **All members were in agreement for the approval of the Jurisdictional Project Determination for 21 Crestview Drive.**

The second was for 6 Nipmuc Drive for a 12x135 deck. The work was determined to have no impact on wetlands. **All members were in agreement for the approval of the Jurisdictional Project Determination for 6 Nipmuc Drive.**

The third was for 42 Pleasant Street for a pad for a shed in a previously disturbed area. The work was determined to have no impact on wetlands. **All members were in agreement for the approval of the Jurisdictional Project Determination for 42 Pleasant Street.**

The fourth was for 12 Ashkins Drive for a deck expansion. The deck will go from 10' out from the house to 14' out from the house. The footings will be hand dug. The work was determined to have no impact on wetlands. **All members were in agreement for the approval of the Jurisdictional Project Determination for 12 Ashkins Drive.**

M. Ammendolia made and Chairman D. Tinio seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated May 21, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

M. Ammendolia made and Chairman D. Tinio seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Cameron, Administrative Clerk

Documents Discussed located in the Conservation Commission Office:

Conservation Restriction draft for 5 Strawberry Lane

Jurisdictional Project Determinations for: Mendon Town Beach, Mendon Town Park, 21 Crestview Dr, 6 Nipmuc Dr, 42 Pleasant St, 12 Ashkins Dr

Meeting minutes of May 21, 2015