CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING  
Monday, January 9, 2017 Town Hall, Room 101, 7:05 PM

Meeting Minutes

Chairman David Haines called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Present were Commissioners: Mike Cavatorta, Jon Clements, Nicholas Burns and John Henry. LeeAnne Connolly, Conservation Administrator, was present for the meeting. Conservation Clerk, Michele Nowak, was present for the meeting. Commissioners Edward Knight and Joseph Babineau were not present for the meeting. Associate member Linda Leduc was also not present for the meeting.

7:05 Notice of Intent, Cont. – Lake Arcadia, Stormwater improvements DEP #104-1000, Belchertown DPW, applicant, Map 102, Lot #62.40. Steve Williams was present from DPW. This project consists of the installation of two leaching catch basins, a bio-retention area, and three bioswales along Federal St. in an effort to provide Non-Point Source Control of roadway run-off from Federal Street to the Lake. D. Haines reiterated the Conservation Commissions concerns about the basins and no having an emergency spillway but D. Haines spoke with Mike Clarke, the project engineer. The Stormwater will primarily enter the bio-retention area by dropping off of an entrance made of vertical granite curb placed one-half inch below the existing roadway onto a 6” depth splash pad of crushed stone. The drop off into the crushed stone will prevent erosion of the bio-retention area side slopes and allow for sediment to deposit in the voids of the crushed stone. A Chapter 91 license won’t be necessary if they use plantings for erosion stabilization. No work will be conducted below the MALWL. The erosion is from stormwater from the road and from pedestrian use over the years. S. Williams stated that plantings weren’t part of the initial proposal but will be added to meet requirements. The middle section of the site is Town owned. The Commission is satisfied with the plans as proposed. M. Cavatorta motioned to issue an Oder of Conditions, J. Clements seconded. The motion passed unanimously, (5:0).

7:15 Discussion Item - Kestrel Land Trust, Farmland Resources Assessment Project. Lee Halasz, from Kestrel Land Trust was present. Mr. Halasz presented the Commission with information about the Farmland Resources Assessment Project. Mr. Halasz has been working with Grace Adzima from the Agricultural Commission who was also present for the meeting. The goal is to keep farmland in production and protect the land for farming. He’s looking to get a general overview of agricultural activities in the Town, like how many farms there are, what the problems might be and what are the long term goals for farms in our area. Kestrel Land Trust prefers to partner with people, not in purchasing land. This is focused on food production farms rather than forest conservation. APRs and “agriculture” versus traditional farms was also discussed. Mr. Halasz invited the Conservation Commission to come to the seminar, or even participate. He is also willing to come back to speak to the Commission. The Commission also discussed agricultural exemptions and impacts in wetland resource areas. The seminar is scheduled for January 14th.

7:35 Notice of Intent – Pine St., house construction, DEP #104-1002, Ray Goulet, applicant, Map 276, Lot #103.00 (2). The applicant was present for the meeting. Keith Terry of Sherman & Frydryk was present representing the applicant. D. Haines conducted the site visit. Plans for both lots (2 & 3) are for 3 bedroom homes to be built and were presented to the
Commission. Some abutters were present for the meeting (see sign-in sheet). These lots are in
the tree line, not in the former cornfield which is on the right side of the wetland. Keith Morris
delineated the wetlands. Limit of work is 50 ft. Soil testing was done and results indicate that the
soils on the property are very sandy. There is a stream in this wetland system and after discussion
the commission agreed it’s an Intermittent Stream. The Commission was presented the Stream
Stats and Analysis on the channel at the roadway at Pine Street Stream and the Stats criteria were
discussed. The sand/gravel in the watershed is 13%. The applicant took pictures of the stream
on June, 23rd, 24th and, 25th June and presented them to the Commission showing the channel
was dry. The official drought was called July 8th. In addition, 5 previous filings for this stream
have designated it as Intermittent. L. Connolly has walked the entire channel multiple times over
the years and has seen it dry especially since the work on the Chicopee Aqueduct, about 4 yrs
ago, which changed the flow and is no longer a straight channel. J. Clements motioned to issue
an Order of Conditions, N. Burns seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5:0).

7:55 Notice of Intent – Pine St., house construction, DEP #104-1003, Ray Goulet,
applicant, Map 276, Lot #104.00 (3). The applicant was present for the meeting. Keith Terry of
Sherman & Frydryk Land Surveying was present representing the applicant. D. Haines
conducted the site visit and had questions about Flags #A38 & #A39 and also noticed one flag
was missing while all the other flags looked fine. Soil testing was done and results of the
property are very sandy soils. Permanent markers are proposed along the 50 ft. offset to the
wetland flags. The septic systems on both lots are 100 ft. from the wetland limit. Any
movement of the flag won’t affect the septic system; it will only have the driveway possibly
moved a few feet. Abutters to the proposed work were present for the meeting and contributed to
the discussion and shared questions about their concerns, (See Sign-in sheet). The Commission
discussed water flow from the lots. The Commission agreed to have the Order of Conditions
issued with the contingent of looking at the wetland flags in question during the Spring of 2017.
If wetland flags #A38 & #A39 are not accurate, with the applicant’s agreement and permission
that it be included in the Order of Conditions, the driveway will be moved. The limit of work is
50 ft. J. Clements motioned to issue the Order of Conditions with the included stipulation about
the flags and driveway, J. Henry seconded. The motion passed unanimously, (5:0).

8:10 Request for Determination – 92 Mill Valley Rd., new agriculture, Map 249, Lot #56.00,
Bill Riedel, applicant. This filing is for new agricultural activities. Michael Frangakis was
present representing the applicant. He is the person that would be doing the work. J. Clements
conducted the site visit. The proposed work is to take out invasive plants like Multiflora Rose,
Russian Olive and bittersweet as well as brush removal. They have goats and chickens on the
property. The Commission had concerns about the reason for doing work in the wetland. A
Forest Management Plan/Cutting plan was presented to the Commission. A NRCS plan was also
presented but there are no provisions for wetland protection. The Commission reviewed the 2013
delineation that was for a septic repair. The Commission reiterated that all farming activities
need to be conducted outside of the wetlands. The Commission can allow invasive species
removal as long as it does not impact the wetland. It would have to be selective removal, done by
hand, not by machinery – no machinery is allowed in the wetland. The Commission requested
that the fencing be placed in the upland areas only. The Commission also
remembered that there was some work done a few years ago. At that time, J. Henry conducted the site visit and an Enforcement Order was issued. Since then, Pete Levesque flagged the wetlands. J. Clements stated that he would like to conduct a site visit to review the intent and location of the work preferably with the owner present, in the spring. Until then, only work in the upland is allowed by nothing near the wetland. It was historically used as a farm. The Conservation Commission was in receipt of a Forest Cutting Plan. M. Frangakis stated that the owner was coming back into town next week and agreed that no work will be done until cleared to do so. M. Frangakis questioned the removal of brush piles in the wetland and was instructed that the brush piles in the wetland need to stay. Burning of upland brush piles can be done as long as Burn Permits are obtained. M. Cavatorta motioned to continue to February 27th, with the applicant’s permission, N. Burns seconded. The motion passed unanimously, (5:0).

Discussion Items: Bills – The Commission voted unanimously, (5:0) to pay the bills.
   • Minutes – The Commission voted unanimously (5:0) to accept the 12/12/16 minutes as amended.
   • Miscellaneous Matters – There were no miscellaneous matters.
   • New Business – There was no new business.
   • Estate Planning Seminar, January 28, 2017 – Lee Halasz, from Kestrel Land Trust was present to provide info to the Commission. (Please see the 7:15 Discussion Item).
   • Don Mader Town Forest Project LAND Grant Update. We did not get the grant so the project is on hold. However, L. Connolly will once again work with Kestrel Land Trust to apply for a Land & Water Grant which is a 50% match. L. Connolly stated that she’ll reapply for the grant when applications submissions are open again.
   • ANR Plan – State St. & Turkey Hill Rd., Pride Limited Partnership, owner. The Commission reviewed the ANR plan and a standard letter will be sent to the applicant.
   • Forest Cutting Plan – Route 181, Alan & Joann Page, owners. The Commission reviewed this forest cutting plan.

8:40 PM J. Henry motioned to adjourn, N. Burns seconded. The motion passed unanimously, (5:0)

NEXT MEETING Monday, January 23, 2017
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Lawrence Memorial Hall
2 Jabish Street, Post Office Box 670
Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007-0670
(413) 323-0405

Attendance Sign-In Sheet

Please print your full name, address, email address and time of hearing you are attending below. Thank you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address and Email Address</th>
<th>Agenda Time/Hearing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Pooley</td>
<td>38 Eugene Drive</td>
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<td>Thomas Pooley</td>
<td>38 Eugene Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee Halasz</td>
<td>10 Boyden Rd Pelham</td>
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<td>Grace Adzima</td>
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<td>Steve Williams</td>
<td>DPW</td>
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<td>Ray Gallet</td>
<td>69 Metacomet St B. Town</td>
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<td>Keith Terry</td>
<td>S2F LLC</td>
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<td>John Davis</td>
<td>41 Pine St</td>
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<td>D. Bonner</td>
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<td>Rob Morton</td>
<td>45 Pine St</td>
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<td>Matt Jackson</td>
<td>39 Maplecrest Rd</td>
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<td>Michael Ficataki</td>
<td>420 N Washington St</td>
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