

Ashby Conservation Commission
****DRAFT**** Minutes for the Meeting of February 19, 2014

The meeting opened at 7:30pm with Tim Bauman, Bob Leary and Cathy Kristofferson in attendance, Roberta Flashman joined by phone.

The Minutes of the meeting of January 15, 2014 were reviewed. Motion to accept was made and 2nd d. Unanimous vote was in favor of accepting the Minutes.

Treasurer's Report: nothing to report.

Correspondence:

Email from Maryann Dipinto, DEP: Free Vernal Pool Workshop for Conservation Professionals, to be held May 16.

Received plans for Lambert, Lot 2 on the Edna Hay property. Will require crossing. Tim will call for details.

Old Business:

Douglas Smith, SoilSmith Designs had submitted plans for New Ipswich Road, Map 9, Lot 20. He is in the process of refining construction site plans. The Commission has received new plans for comparison at tonight's meeting. The septic was moved closer to the house and further from the wetland so still ok, actually better.

CR monitoring status – Cathy submitted completed Packard, Moulton and Mickola 2013 annual monitoring forms for town Forest Legacy CR properties to DCR/Bureau of Forestry.

Camp Middlesex contacted the Commission through Heidi Messing. The flashboards need to be replaced this year. Cathy replied that there needs to be a new NOI submitted to obtain an Order of Conditions (OOC). No action on this item for this meeting.

Received from Whitman and Bingham, an NOI for property at 860 Greenville Road, Micaela Fors owner. Chair spoke with Chris MacKenzie (W&B) to discuss difficulties in getting on site in the winter. He is to call me when things are staked for clear observation. Received from DEP project # 93-339 with added requirements including an alternative analysis and Water Quality Certification.

Email sent to the Board of Assessors supporting the proposed Warrant Article for MassGIS map conversion and updating.

Received NOI from Ross for 854 South Road.

New Business:

Bruce Adams appeared with plans for Norse Road Lot 1 for Pomerleau. The septic system was designed in 2009. He is concerned about 200' Board of health requirement but believes Lot 2 was approved for 100'. This is not a Conservation Commission issue so he will verify and return with updated full size plans.

Pete Bezanson appeared to request Certificate of Compliance for work done as DEP #93-217

Alan and Lynn Carpenito appeared to pose questions regarding Certificates of Compliance issue for the lots at 600 Jones Hill Road, Map 3, Parcels 5.1 and 5.9. The developer/seller is Mike Dermody. The status of the development is unknown to us as the Commission has not been on that site for years. Recommend that the potential buyers have the Certificates of Compliance handled by the seller.

Cutting Plan received from DCR for property at Erickson and Luke Roads owned by James and Janice Wiita approved by State Forester Downey. Vernal Pool involved. Commission did not receive abutter's notice until 2-9-14 for cutting scheduled to begin 2-10-14. Some concern brought to our attention of logging over the property bounds onto Blood Hill property. Bob checked on 2/14/2014 all seemed in order at that time.

The Commission has many concerns and questions about the proposed Tennessee Gas Pipeline through Ashby, adjacent communities and most of MA from Western border to the depot in Dracut. The Commission expressed concern that permission was granted for surveyor access for two properties under the Commission's control – Blood Hill and Lyman Woodlot – without consultation. Those properties possess environmental issues such as certified vernal pools and NHESP Rare Species habitat. The Commission is concerned in general about the 50' swath and 31" pipe of fracked gas shown on the map obtained from the Town Administrator depicted to pass very close to the Great Swamp and the Outstanding Resource Water Trap Falls Brook. Not of Commission concerns, but Town concern in general we wonder about policing what is essentially an open into perpetuity road cut through the Town from West to East. An article in the Fitchburg Sentinel mentioned Townsend having similar concerns, Cathy will contact to inquire about potential surrounding Towns coalition.

Hearings: 2-19-14, 8:00 PM Whitman and Bingham, NOI for property at 860 Greenville Road

Hearings Scheduled: None

Site Visits: Friday 2-14-14, Blood Hill, Wiita property Cutting site, Bob checked and found boundaries being honored,

Site Visits Needed: New Ipswich Road. Note: plans, Map 9, Lot 20. Soilsmith Design

To review proposed work in the wetland resource area of 860 Greenville Road, #93-339

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Kristofferson