

Ashby Conservation Commission
Minutes for the Meeting of December 17, 2014
*** DRAFT ***

In attendance: Tim, Bob and Cathy; Roberta via Skype.

The minutes of the meeting of November 19, 2014 were reviewed and unanimously accepted as written.

Note: No official meeting of 12-3-14

Treasurer's Report:

nothing to report.

Correspondence:

Update from the MassDEP Central Regional Office that it has been re-located to 8 New Bond Street, Worcester, MA 01606. This is their new address for mailing. The main phone number and extensions remain the same as before (1-508-792-7650). The Commission's NOI DIY guide will be updated to reflect the new address.

Notice from the Town Treasurer of new mileage rate of \$0.57.5 effective January 1, 2015.

Email survey from MACC inquiring about how much land is protected by Massachusetts Conservation Commissions? Cathy will investigate that information for Ashby.

Tim and Cathy attended a DEP Circuit Rider review of the new Wetlands Protection Act Regulations in Townsend. New forms are available online. Not a lot changed that pertains to Ashby. Of concern is a change to projects on parcels greater than 50 acres where they abutter notification is 100' from the project extent, not the parcel, so wondering responsibility will be on the project engineer as this is not something an assessor should be expected to handle.

Notification from DEP that Commissions are no longer required to send copies of Certificates of Compliance or Extensions to Orders of Conditions to the DEP. We must continue to file copies of Determinations of Applicability, Enforcement Orders, Emergency Certifications, and Orders of Conditions.

Call from Doug Brisebois, 729 Richardson for follow-up. Tim to contact.

Commission received a cutting plan for Hopkins at 1166 New Ipswich Rd. The start date listed is 12/1/2014.

We received a 2014 monitoring report for Blood Hill Conservation Area for the Ashby Land Trust.

Forest Legacy monitoring and bounds marking for the McAuley conservation restriction has been completed. The other properties remain to be done.

Old Business:

New information and discussion of the proposed gas pipeline: The New Hampshire Powerline route is now the preferred route of Kinder Morgan per their 12.8 filing with FERC. There was discussion at the MA Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting on the impacts on Chapter 61 properties regarding loss of qualifying acreage due to eminent domain takings. The new route includes a lateral that runs from Mason, through Townsend and Lunenburg to service Fitchburg. The compressor station proposed for West Townsend has shifted north to Mason or Greenville. The lateral comes fairly close to Ashby and continues to go through Willard Brook State Forest. This will still require a 2/3 vote of the legislature to remove Article 97 protections of Willard Brook.

Bob Bedard appeared with a plot plan for the Rod and Gun Club changes to the proposed ground pavement project for the drive between the upper and lower parking lots. The Commission will meet Bob at the site sometime after the 1st of the year.

New Business:

The donated wireless router is malfunctioning again so moved and seconded to approve the purchase of a new one. Purchase to be made locally at the PC store in Townsend.

Hearings:

Charlotte McAuley appeared for the submitted Determination of Applicability for a proposed land clearing project at 664 Richardson Road. The applicant is choosing to remain out of the 100' wetland buffer. When the erosion controls marking the extent of work to be done at the site are installed, the Commission will be called for inspection. Once the site has been marked and inspected the determination can be made.

Hearings Scheduled: None.

Site Visits: None reported.

Site Visits Needed: Rod and Gun Club for parking lot RDA. Set for sometime in January.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Kristofferson