

Ashby Conservation Commission  
Minutes for the Meeting of October 15, 2014

Meeting opened at 7:30pm. Tim Bauman, Bob Leary, Cathy Kristofferson and Roberta Flashman attended. The minutes of the meeting of October 1, 2014 were reviewed and accepted unanimously as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** \$18 for big map of new pipeline route as filed with FERC and \$3.75 for 3 11x17copies.

**Correspondence:**

A Cutting Plan was received from Richard Valcourt, forester, for cutting on 25 acres on Route 119, owned by Gabriel Medjanis. The property is located just west of the quaking bog.

A Cutting Plan was received from Robert Saari, forester, for cutting on 50 acres on Spring Hill Road, owned by Thibeault. The Plan is not signed by the forester or the owner. Tim will contact the State Forester and ask how the cutting will be marked, since it abuts the Blood Hill property. The plan states that there will be a method of marking other than marking trees to be cut or trees to be left.

**Old Business:**

BOS comment to FERC has now been filed and accepted under the name of the Town of Ashby, rather than as an individual.

Mass Audubon submitted a comment to FERC which was just a perfect letter, covering all the points for denying the project.

MACC's director, Eugene Bensen, sent out advice to Conservation Commissions: "Summary of Advice to Conservation Commissions". We are in line with most of the suggestions. We will document the Environmental Assets of properties along the proposed route.

The Planning Board is looking at strategies used by NY planning boards as a result of Cathy forwarding these strategies to the Planning Board members.

1<sup>st</sup> Stakeholder meeting for the Low Demand scenario was held in Boston today. Cathy attended.

There is a Summit meeting being planned to occur in Fitchburg on Nov 15<sup>th</sup> @ Monty Tech @8:30 am – 1:00pm. Breakfast followed by 2 sessions, one presented by Shana Cleveland, Conservation Law Foundation. There will be mailings to make information available to organizers and potential attendees. This is a meeting intended for the general public.

Need to communicate with the Rod and Gun Club regarding cutting with wetland bounds on Richardson Road. Bob talked with Bob Bedard to open the subject. He will try to get someone to attend a Cons Comm meeting.

A Western Mass filmmaker has made a film with interviews of land owners who will be affected by the proposed pipeline. Cathy will be getting it on the Ashby Website/vimeo as well as the local access TV station.

The new Maps of the pipeline route were printed in time to be available at the Pumpkin Festival.

**New Business:**

The Tree Warden was reporting on trees on the Common during the most recent Selectmen's meeting. It was unclear what would be accomplished by cutting down the trees on the common, even if they showed evidence of the Emerald Ash Borer. It would be hard to imagine that if they were infested, that only they are infested, and hold the possibility of infesting the rest of the trees in Ashby.

**Hearings:** None tonight and none scheduled.

**Site Visits:** none reported on tonight and none scheduled.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Flashman