

Ashby Conservation Commission

Minutes for the Meeting of January 7, 2015

The meeting opened at 7:30pm with Tim Bauman, Bob Leary, and Cathy Kristofferson in attendance. Roberta Flashman attended the meeting via Skype.

The minutes of the meeting of December 17, 2014 were reviewed and accepted as amended by the addition of the time of adjournment as 8:45pm.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Cathy spent \$35 for a new router to replace the old, non-functioning router. She placed a note on the surge protector to hopefully eliminate the possibility of someone plugging the router directly into the wall socket again. It is possible that eliminating the surge protection was the cause of the old router's failure.

Nashua River Watershed payment of \$50 will be held until Tim writes a letter to NRWA about the Commission's concerns about the NRWA's stance on the proposed pipeline.

\$5 box of nails to be used to affix Forest Legacy boundary markers is now with Paula Packard awaiting the thawing of the trees. Hers is the last property that needs the boundaries marked with the signs.

**Correspondence:**

DEP sent a packet with Revised Wetland Protection Act Regulations, and a set of Wetland Forms and a summary Fact Sheet of Revisions. Effective Oct 24, 2014. All forms and regs are online.

Tim received a request for an FY16 budget. He will start work on the budget.

**Old Business:**

An update on the Kinder Morgan NED pipeline proposal is the subject of a meeting in Townsend on January 11. The new preferred route is now through New Hampshire and a lateral is proposed to be built through Townsend on the way to Fitchburg. It also looks like there may be a compressor station in Greenville.

Cathy is heading up an Article 97 work group that is organizing a lobby day for legislators. She wants to get people to lobby Senator Flannigan on January 14<sup>th</sup> to reconsider her stance in favor of more gas pipelines into Massachusetts.

There will be a Fundraiser at Markow's Restaurant in Ayer on Saturday, Jan 17<sup>th</sup>. Benefits for NH Pipeline Awareness Network.

This Sunday there will be a showing of Gasland II at the Wilton Townhall Theatre. There will be a discussion following the showing.

No action taken on the Rod and Gun Club's awaited Request for Determination on changes the surface of the upper parking lot pending a site visit. Bob Bedard had stated at the last meeting that there was no urgency on the project due to winter weather.

Email survey from MACC: How much land is protected by Massachusetts Conservation Commissions? Cathy is working on gathering the acreage and ownership of the various lands in town that are protected.

Tim read a letter he has written to Doug Brisbois, 729 Richardson Road, in response to a phone call inquiry and subsequent site visit conducted in the fall. The letter states, after citing the various findings of the site visit, that it is the Commission's opinion that the fluctuation of water level on Upper Wrights Pond is due to natural causes and, where that is not the case, that the high level of water had been alleviated by actions taken at the beaver dam on the Fitchburg Rod and Gun Club property. The Commission members agreed with the letter and Tim will mail it.

No action has been taken on issuing a Determination of Applicability for a proposed land clearing project at 664 Richardson Road for Charlotte McCauley. The Commission has been waiting to hear from Charlotte McCauley that a marker has been placed for the extent of clearing. Once that marker has been viewed, the Commission can make a determination on whether the project can proceed without a Notice of Intent.

**New Business:**

As a result of the monitoring of the Moulton's Forest Legacy property, the Moulton's were informed of some violations along the border with a property that had been recently sold. The new owner, Ms. Kyrie E. Martino, 716 New Ipswich Road, had obviously started using a section of the Moulton property as though it was an extension of their own land. The Moulton's wrote a letter to the new owner about their unauthorized use of the property and forwarded a copy to the Commission. When Cathy and Bob conducted the monitoring, they saw red flags from installation and training for a dog invisible fence. They also noted that the chicken coop waste had been tossed over the wall. Additionally, some ropes and boards had been attached to a tree. The violations were reported to DCR. DCR has responded that the invisible fence is a violation and has requested a copy of the Moulton's letter and evidence of when the violations have been resolved. The Commission will follow up with the Martino's.

All of the monitoring has now been completed for the Forest Legacy properties. There were no surprises at the Mikola or Packard properties except for some new surveying along one of the side of the Packard property. Cathy is working on the monitoring reports.

**Hearings:** None

**Hearings Scheduled:** None

**Site Visits:** none

**Site Visits Needed:**

Rod and Gun Club for parking lot RDA.

664 Richardson Road

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Flashman