

Ashby Conservation Commission
Minutes for the Meeting of November 18, 2015

Meeting opened at 7:30pm with Bob Leary, Roberta Flashman, Tim Bauman and Cathy Kristofferson in attendance.

After a review of the minutes of the meeting of November 4, 2015 a motion was made for approval and 2nd d. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Treasurer's Report:

Correspondence:

A septic plan replacement for 1086 Main Street, Richard Keaney owner was received on 10-29-15 from Beauchemin Engineering. The plans were returned because they were unreadable. New plans were requested by phone.

Roberta received a call from Joe Bellino who wanted to set up a site visit on 11-20-15 at the Sikkila property to review the driveway winterization. He also said he was waiting for a Lawyer's view of the ownership issues surrounding the roadwork proposed on a property for Gerry Broadmerkle.

Monty Tech Teacher of Environmental Science sent an email requesting a speaker from the Commission to talk about local environmental issues sometime during December. Cathy will respond positively to the email.

Notice from Janet Morrison, NCLT, regarding plans to monitor the Witta Property on Saturday on 11-14-15.

Old Business:

Update of information and discussion of the proposed gas pipeline. Attorney General's report on Energy: no new pipelines necessary. Kinder Morgan will make their formal application with FERC on Friday. A joint letter to FERC is being composed from all 3 municipal groups. The letter will ask FERC to perform a consolidated review of all the projects being proposed in Massachusetts, regardless of the company making the proposal. They will also compose a letter to ask State and US Representatives to ask for the same thing. A solar bill was passed by House which proposed a lift of caps by 2%, but removed SREC's and lowered the net metering rate by 75%. The Senate bill raised the cap to 4% and removed all the rest of the bill that would limit solar development. The differences between the bills were not resolved before the holiday recess. New bills are anticipated when the sessions reconvene following the Thanksgiving recess.

DEP's response to Appeal for the Order of Conditions issued on the project for Nate Sikkila on West Rd (map 2, parcel 2.1. Site visit on Friday, November 20, 2015 @ 10:00am

The Commission issued a Negative Determination of Applicability for the McCallum project on Deer Bay Road. The project proposes construction of a catch basin and a drainage ditch to divert runoff from a spring from his driveway, where it freezes and creates a safety issue. Cathy wrote the Determination. The Determination was signed by all Commissioners.

The Commission issued an Order of Conditions DEP# 093-0350 for 80 Flint Road, John Brownell (owner) . The project proposes the construction of a single family home, driveway and sewage disposal system.

New Business:

Hearings:

8:30 PM, 11-18-15, ANRAD Application from Goddard Consulting for land abutting Main Street and Erickson Road. Proposed Solar Installation. A motion was made and 2nd d to continue the hearing to

Dec 2@8:00pm to allow the applicant to provide additional information, based on findings during a site visit on 11/17/15. If they have not completed gathering the requested information by Dec 2, 2015, the hearing will be opened and continued to 12/16/15. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Hearings Scheduled:

12-2-15 ,8:00pm ANRAD Application from Goddard Consulting for land abutting Main Street and Erickson Road. The project is for installation of a solar farm.

Site Visits:

Tuesday, 11-10-15, Preconstruction site visit for an OOC issued on 12-5-2008 for construction of a logging road off Jones Hill Road. OOC # 93-304. Scott Draper, Gary Gouldrup and John King accompanied Tim, Bob and Cathy on the site walk. They agreed on wattles for siltation barriers rather than silt fence and hay bales.

Tuesday, 11-17-15 Site visit conducted for an ANRAD Application from Goddard Consulting for land abutting Main Street and Erickson Road. The site will be prepared for installation of a solar farm. Tim, Cathy and Roberta accompanied Jordan Belknap from Lodestar Energy and Nicole Hayes and Mark Arnold from Goddard Consulting, LLC. The plan had not marked a large wetland which may or may not be an area subject to flooding capable of holding a quarter acre foot of water. It does not appear to be connected to other wetlands. The application no longer includes the Sunny Meadows property. The Commission shared the information from that parcel's wetland bounds with the people from Goddard Consulting. Because of this change, the project now proposes entry to the property from Main St rather than from Erickson Rd. This will require crossing wetlands and a stream. It is not clear that these streams are intermittent since the 4 days noted of no flow were during a drought. Since this is an ANRAD, it is just important to determine whether the streams are perennial or intermittent, not to yet look at the total area of disturbance. The project will clearly require an NOI. Asked for flagging and calculations for the wetland not shown on the plan. This may be ready by Dec 2nd. Asked to be notified when the wetland was marked. There is a distinct possibility that the Commission may have a peer review of the work done for the ANRAD.

Site Visits Needed:

11-20-15 @ 9:45 1086 Main Street, septic replacement designed by Beauchemin Engineering, Richard Keaney owner.

11-20-15 @ 10:00am Joe Bellino at Sikkila property on West Rd.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Roberta Flashman