

Ashby Conservation Commission
Minutes for the Meeting of April 6, 2016

The meeting was opened at 7:30pm with Bob Leary and Roberta Flashman in attendance. This being so, there is no quorum.

Review of the minutes of the meeting of March 16, 2016 was deferred to the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Correspondence:

Email from EEA, FY 16 CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES GRANT, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA). Special opportunity for small towns! Information and application available at: www.mass.gov/eea/dcs-grants

Conservation Assistance for Small Communities :Reimbursement funding for preparation of real property appraisals, Open Space & Recreation Plans (OSRPs), other planning in support of land conservation, and/or development of Open Space Residential Design (OSD)/Natural Resources Protection Zoning (NRPZ) bylaws. Available to all communities with a population of 6,000 people or fewer. Funding is non-competitive; all eligible applicants will receive contracts on a rolling basis until all available funding is allocated. ...towns may receive funding for preparation of an OSRP if they also develop OSD/NRPZ bylaws.

To learn more about this, Roberta attended a meeting at MRPC on 3/31/16 at MRPC to learn more about Natural Resource Protection Zoning. Two members of the Ashby Planning Board were also in attendance. Roberta contacted the Planning Board about working with them to further discuss this zoning. **A meeting was set with the Planning Board for Wed, April 13th @ 7:45 to discuss the zoning and the open space plan grant.**

A voice mail was left asking questions about a cutting at 600 Main Street. Cathy and Roberta walked the property on 3/22/16. They found that mostly dead trees were being cut. They also found a trail for an ORV was being created, and live trees being removed that might be in its way. Unfortunately, the trail crosses the wetlands several times. The Commission needs to try to contact the owner.

Email from Janet Morrison informing the Commission that she is no longer employed at NCLT.

Plan for new construction and accompanying Septic System for Melissa O'Connell, Foster Rd. Submitted by Neal Gormal for Ross Associates. Bob and Roberta reviewed the plan and found the entire driveway is in the 200' riverfront zone. Septic system is outside the buffer zone. Need a site visit.

Old Business:

Update of information and discussion of the proposed gas pipeline. Janel Flinkstrom, Bob Leary, Roberta Flashman, Cedwyn Morgan and Cathy Kristofferson attended the hearing for the DPU review of granting the right to survey on private lands where permission has not been given by the owner for the survey. Cathy, Cedwyn, Janet and Roberta all made statements.

Further communication with DEP, outlining the status of the Sikkila project. The Commission's Enforcement Order is still in effect. Roberta received a call from DEP letting us know that there will be an enforcement order and a superceding order of conditions. There may even be fines to accompany the enforcement order.

Follow-up letter to McAuley property on 664 Richardson Road Horse manure. No further communication.

Follow-up letter to 1342 Richardson Rd. Ashby, MA. No further communication

New Business:

none

Hearings: (None)

Hearings Scheduled: (None)

Site Visits:

4-4-16 Roberta and Tim met on site with Chris McKenzie Project Engineer for Whitman & Bingham Associates, LLC and Ted Whittenkraus, who were requesting an indication of whether an RDA would be accepted for 730 Foster Road site. There was an agreement that the toe of the first slope is the edge of the wetland, unless a Wetland Scientist does testing to prove otherwise. There is a stream at the very bottom of the slope. Fill from the proposed system would extend into the 100 ft buffer zone. Therefore, the Commission determined that an NOI is necessary.

4-4-16 Roberta, Cathy and Tim met at Camp Lapham with Ben Palmer to review a proposed shelter to be built beyond the Volleyball court. Found an area pushed close to the stone wall that would be beyond 50 ft from the pond and BVW and also not add the water from the roof to the pond. They won't be building this building until next year.

4-4-16 Erickson Road, Tarkanian property , DEP# 93 -0307. Cathy, Roberta and Tim met with Stan Dillis to discuss a move of the driveway to a place designated by Bill Davis. Determined that the source of the water in the culvert comes from a catch basin across the street and is not connected to a wetland – a mysterious spring of water near the catch basin couldn't be traced to the wetland behind the house. He will have to file an amended Notice of Intent.

3-22-16, 600 Main Street, Cathy and Roberta walked the property to investigate cuttings behind the house on the 6 acres connected with the property.

Site Visits Needed

Camp Middlesex, Wed, April 20 @ 10:00 – pre-construction

Melissa O'Connell, Foster Rd, for Neal Gorman, Ross Associates – septic system for new construction

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Flashman