

Ashby Conservation Commission

Minutes for the Meeting of November 15, 2017

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

The Minutes of the meeting of November 1, 2017 were reviewed and unanimously accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report: nothing to report.

Correspondence:

11-2-2017	emails with the Planning Board regarding Hancock Associates
11-3-2017	email from Hancock Associates requesting further continuance of the hearing
11-6-2017	email from DEP inquiring about erosion reported at 911 South Road. This was acknowledged, but the erosion is not within the 100 ft buffer to any wetland.
11-6,7,8-2017	emails with Megan Twyver regarding pre-construction site visit. Only the carpenter was present at the site visit of 11-8-17. Will need another visit for the equipment operator.
11-9-2017	phone call with Brownell/Flint Rd about possible violation of OOC. Requested his appearance at tonight's meeting to discuss the project.
11-13-2017	cutting plan for 40 acres on Greenville Road (Waskiewicz, owner) from Erik Polanik

Old Business:

- Activity at 600 Main St. and potential wetland impacts. Bob has not yet sent a follow up letter. He will visit the home owner.
- Flint Rd / Brownell - unpermitted construction within 50 ft. of pond edge. John Brownell came in to explain the construction and rationale for the building of a shed next to the pond without a wetlands permit. The shed is built on sono tubes. He told the Commission that he would take care of the erosion next to the dam. He also promised to move the trailer. After much discussion, he agreed to move the cabin/shed back so it will be outside the 50 ft. buffer of the wetland (pond). He agreed to complete the move by September 1, 2018. He also agreed to limit his access beach to a 20 ft. strip along the pond. The Commission will include these changes in an addendum to the Order of Conditions and send a copy to Mr. Brownell.
- Report back from Planning Board meeting discussion regarding 0 Fitchburg State Road. Cathy and Roberta explained the Commission's rationale for preferring a drive for the 2 proposed homes off of the circle to be built for the 4 homes at the top of the hill: no wetlands crossings, no building within the 100 ft. buffer to the wetlands, no driveways ascending an extremely steep hillside.

New Business:

- Commission's laptop use for town election night. Cathy made a motion to allow the Commission's laptop to be used for elections. 2nd by Bob. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion. This will allow access to a spreadsheet to be used for speedy and accurate calculation of the ballots cast.
- Unified permitting process, including tracking project until complete. Roberta will be working on creating flow charts for each department's process and then integrate them to become one overall flow. Will find a way to make all documents available to all during the process.
- Discussion of the mowing of South Rd fields for conservation purposes. The Ashby Land Trust has suggested that mowing be performed once a year instead of twice. They would provide signage explaining the rationale for the change. It would leave the fields unmowed until late August. The Ashby Land Trust also suggested that they might set this up as a Science experiment, using counts of insects

and birds at the regularly mowed sections against similar counts on the unmowed field. Roberta will talk with John Kimball about whether he would be amenable to still performing the mowing. Reduction of mowing might render the hay not suitable for horses. Paula Packard is willing to cut the field if John Kimball is not.

- Map 12 parcel 38 lot 6, Brynn Hart, 431 Richardson Rd. application for Building permit for a ground mount of 34 solar panels. In viewing the property via Google maps, the Commission noted that the lawn area behind the house is far away from any wetlands. Tim signed off on the building permit.
- Map 11, parcel 111, lot 1, Eugene Barrett, 629 Turnpike Rd application for Building permit for a ground mount of 24 solar panels. In viewing the property via Google maps, the Commission noted that the area near the house is far away from the stream. Tim signed off on the building permit.
- Forest legacy monitoring is coming up. Cathy will notify new owners of McCauley property.
- Bob made a motion to pay for 4 hunter orange vests and lettering that Roberta purchased for the Commission. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

Hearings:

8:00 – hearing for NOI, Hourihan, Deer Bay Rd. Advertising for the Hearing was not in the paper, so continued the hearing to Dec 6 @ 7:45PM.

8:30 – 0 Fitchburg Rd, Hancock Assoc. The Commission received a request that the hearing for the 2 lots on Fitchburg State Road be continued. The Commission continued the hearing to Dec 6th @ 8:00pm.

Hearings scheduled:

Dec 6 @ 7:45PM – hearing for NOI, Hourihan, Deer Bay Rd.

Dec 6th @ 8:00pm – continuation of the NOI hearing for 0 Fitchburg Rd, Hancock Assoc.

Site Visits:

11-8 - Pre-construction site visit, 242 Deer Bay Road, Roberta. The owners and the carpenter who would be demolishing the porch were at the site visit. Hay bales were installed incorrectly, having the flap folded and covered with earth rather than dug into a ditch.

Site Visits Needed:

Hourihan NOI Deer Bay Rd. Commissioners have visited this property at least one time already, but some Commissioners want a 2nd visit to understand the plans submitted with the NOI.

End of Deer Bay Rd, report of heavy equipment at the end of the road.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Flashman