

Ashby Conservation Commission

Minutes for the Meeting of April 19, 2017

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

Minutes of the meeting of April 5, 2017 were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes with revisions. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Received an invoice from ERSI for the maintenance fee for ArcView. \$15.07 receipts for postage.

Correspondence:

4-7-2017 Soilsmith abutter's receipts from Certified mailing of notice of hearing for 71 Russell Hill Road.

4-13-2017 Natural Heritage is updating their atlas leaving Ashby's only protected habitat is the Fitchburg Reservoir. The Division is requesting public comment on the DRAFT Priority Habitat Map for the 14th Edition Natural Heritage Atlas. The Open Public Comment Period is April 3, 2017 - June 3, 2017. There is a need to respond to this issue. Motion made to either sign on to the Land Trust letter or authorize Cathy to write a similar letter.. Motion seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

4-10-2017 Call from Ken Gerken, 800 Mason Road with concerns of water from the road diverting onto his property.

4-10-17 email received Environmental Monitoring Report Week 31 for Cassiopeia Solar Farm 0 & 1128 Main Street

4-17-17 email received Environmental Monitoring Report Week 32 for Cassiopeia Solar Farm 0 & 1128 Main Street

4-17-17 email from Judy Schmitz(Wetland Circuit Rider) about DEP staffing and an update on the State's drought status. We are still in a drought.

Old Business:

Up-date for the Earth Removal Board to investigate the unpermitted removal of materials from the Sikkila site on West Road. Bob reported that he hadn't talked with other members and had been unable to talk with the building inspector.

Brian Cote, owner, Mark Moscinski, builder regarding 462 Davis Rd., plans for new house and septic system. Visited the site on 3-30-2017. Revisited and determined that with an updated plan including siltation barriers and no further cutting, sign-off could be obtained from the Commission. Chair signed the new plan on 4/19/17.

New Business:

8:30 PM: RDA for Allen Road, Lot 2, Ken Chaplin- applicant, Tim Beauchemin Engineering. Advertising did not meet the 5 day lead time, carries over to 5-3-2017 meeting. Ken would prefer to have the systems located closer to the intermittent stream on the next lot over – on Valley Rd. The current plans have a 200 ft buffer for this stream. Would like to have the septic system location adjusted to 100 ft buffer. Will either have a new plan or use the existing plan on May 3rd, 7:45pm. Ken will re-advertise the RDA.

Hearings:

8:00 PM: NOI for project for a proposed addition to the existing house at #10 Davis Road, (Owners: Rudolf & Barbara Lahti) Assessor's Map 4, Parcel 40. N Gorman, Ross Associates. Hearing was ended at 8:25pm. Continued to May 3, 2017 @ 8:00pm

8:45 PM: Hearing continued from 3-1-17, NOI from Stuart Mulford, Prepared by Doug Smith of Soilsmith. Revised plan for NOI moves all but a small portion of the new drive is now outside the buffer. Hearing closed at 9:04pm. Cathy will write the Order of Conditions.

Hearings Scheduled:

May 3, 2017

7:45pm RDA for Allen Road, Lot 2, Ken Chaplin

8:00pm NOI for project for a proposed addition to the existing house at #10 Davis Road

Site Visit

4-11-2017 10 Davis Road, RDA submitted by N. Gorman, David Ross Associates. Tim and Roberta. An addition is being proposed to the existing house within the 200 ft buffer to Locke Brook and the pond that it flows through across Greenville Rd from the house and across Davis Rd. The addition is > 200 ft from the brook across Davis Rd. There is a ditch at the side of the property closest to 31 which catches and carries water from 31 to Locke Brook. This extends along the front of this property, ponding in wet times and flowing into a culvert in really, really wet times that would connect it to Locke Brook. Saw no outflow on our visit. The house and proposed addition are > 100ft from the edge of the pond across the street. Being 200 ft from the edge of the pond is a BOH requirement, not a Wetlands Protection Act requirement.

4-11-2017 800 Mason Road, Tim and Roberta met with Ken Gerkin who had complained of water traveling down his driveway and into the pond. His neighbor across the road had constructed a berm across his own driveway that thwarted the water from entering his driveway. Now, Mr. Gerkin contends, all the water is collecting on the road and overflowing to run down his driveway. Mr. Gerkin has installed no diversion or treatment to prevent the water from entering the pond. Mr. Gerkin requested that the town insert a culvert to capture the water from the road and divert it onto a neighbor's undeveloped wooded property. Chair communicated with the Highway Supt. who will check the situation following the next rainfall.

4-12-2017 RDA for lot 2 on Allen Road. Four Commissioners with Dave Crossman, Wetland Scientist. A new house and accompanying septic system are being proposed on the site. An intermittent and ephemeral stream flows from the culvert on the uphill property to the flat area on this property that shows use as a road at some point. There is no clear connection to the flow that appears downhill (30 ft) from that point amidst an outcrop of stones and ledge. The commissioners expressed a lot of concern about the amount of rock and ledge on the property, especially in the path of the proposed driveway. Q to Metcalf of BOH – how much natural soil must be in place for a system?

4-14-2017 Corner of Allen Rd and Valley Rd. Roberta and Cathy conducted an investigation of the measurements of the proposed development and septic system from the intermittent stream and the perennial stream. 177' from the intermittent stream to the benchmark marked on the property near the proposed septic system. Same distance to the test hole marked 117-4. 198' to the corner of the system as marked on the property. 142' to the edge of the road from the nearest corner of the system – it is more than 60 ft to the perennial stream from that point. Q: - Is there a way to prevent the property from being dug up and then found to be unsuitable for development?

Site Visits Needed:

688 Jones Hill Road

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Flashman