

Ashby Conservation Commission
Minutes for the Meeting of Dec 19, 2018

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

The Minutes of the meetings of December 5, 2018 were reviewed and accepted as written unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: nothing to report.

Correspondence:

- 12/6 - email from Jack Maloney/Ducharme & Dillis for sign-off on plans for 700 New Ipswich Rd.
- 12/13 - snow removal guidance from MassDEP – no action taken.
- 12/13-17 - emails with Eric Mossman re: septic replacement at 91 Deer Bay Road
- 12/14-17 - emails with Heidi Messing re: Jan for RDA and NOI hearing
- 12/17 - emails with Steve Beauregard re: approved snow removal locations
- 12/18 - email from new owners of 420 Main St., will attend meeting
- 12/19 - monitoring report from NCLT for Wiita Blood Hill property
- 12/19 - email from Steve Beauregard requesting withdrawal of 93-384. Cathy had checked with Denise and Judy Schmitz asking how to withdraw the NOI.
- 12/19 – invoice received from NRWA for annual membership. Motion made to pay, 2ndd and vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Old Business:

COC for Loadstar replication – Roberta will inform Lodestar that the Commission is unable to issue a Certificate of Compliance since the replication area has not survived through 2 growing seasons.

Grant opportunity with NRWA for culvert improvements – Letter of support from Steve Buczynski for the project has been forwarded to NRWA.

Forest Legacy annual monitoring – has been completed for all 4 properties! Eagles were spotted. And it looked like infestations of Hemlock woolly adelgids may have been checked by the cold weather of last December and January.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan has been presented to and signed by the Selectmen, which completes the process. No build out was included even though the Commission had purchase CommunityViz software and began creating not only a town wide build out, but a build out for each assessor's map. The build out was presented to the Planning Board on December 12, 2018.

Scott & Sue Thatcher of 420 Main St. came in to find out what would be needed to get COC. The Commission gave them the wetland boundary markers and asked that they call us when the signs are in place. We will await their call and then conduct a site visit. The COC is ready to go once the site visit confirms that the signs are in place.

New Business:

Commission members' availability during the holidays: Roberta will call in during the next meeting so that there will be a quorum at the next meeting. Tim most likely will not be available.

Soilsmith Designs left a plan for a replacement septic system in our box for a property at 518 Turnpike Rd owned by Ron Gilbert. There is a wetlands area within 100 ft. of the proposed work area. There needs to be a site visit before the Commission can make a Determination of Applicability. It is possible that this project will not require an NOI because the proposed work will be done in a lawn area greater than 50 ft. from the edge of wetlands. Tim will talk with Doug Smith and set up a site visit.

91 Deer Bay Rd. Cathy and Roberta conducted the site visit today and after discussion it was decided that a negative determination would be issued during the Jan 2nd meeting.

Hearings: none

Site Visits:

12/19/2018 91 Deer Bay Rd Site Cathy and Roberta met with Eric Mossman at the property for an RDA for replacement septic system. He will put a barrier at the down edge of the property to prevent anything getting into the road or area across the street through the culvert.

12/19/2018 603 Fitchburg State Rd. The Commission (Cathy, Roberta and Tim) conducted a courtesy site walk with the owners, Steve and Neil Phaneuf. The intent was to identify wetlands that might impede use of the property within the industrial zone for buildings to house grow facilities or parking areas. The Commission found what is a potential vernal pool on the property and will have to obtain permission to return in the spring to see if it is certifiable. The Commission also found an intermittent stream that connects to a larger wetland off the property. Both of these wetlands were identified by the owner's consultant, Oxbow Associates. They consented to send us a copy of the report. They also acknowledge that they will need to leave a buffer for the intermittent stream (100ft) and the vernal pool(50ft) in their plans for any future building. The Commission told them we would be happy to review future plans with them.

12/19/2018 113 County Rd, septic replacement. The Commission was called to conduct a final site visit to ascertain that the project had been completed in compliance with the Order of Conditions. Cathy and Roberta wen to the site and found that the steep slope has been covered with straw mats, which are constructed with plastic netting, and then covered the whole thing with jute netting. Everything was held in place with the 6" metal staples that Ryan Smith had shown us on the previous visit. The top of the slope had been hydro seeded. The wattle at the bottom of the slope, backing up the siltation fencing, is also covered in plastic netting. Need to call or write Brian at MRPC about the failure of the contractor to follow the requirements of the OOC.

Site Visits needed:

73 Erickson Rd, Mike Bussell, house demolition – completed. Is this site visit still required?

518 Turnpike Rd, replacement septic system.

End of Harris Rd, Wayne Hardy, dam condition

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Flashman