

Ashby Conservation Commission

Minutes for the Meeting of March 8, 2018

The meeting was opened at 6:00pm with Tim Bauman, Bob Leary, Roberta Flashman and Cathy Kristofferson in attendance. The meeting had been rescheduled more than 48 hours in advance due to the forecast of a severe Northeaster Snow Storm to last all day Wednesday, March 7, 2018.

The minutes of the meeting of January 17, 2018 were reviewed and accepted unanimously as written. There was no meeting on February 7, 2018 due to a snow storm. The minutes of February 21, 2018 were also reviewed and approved, although there was no quorum for the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: \$40.13 for reimbursement of mileage for MACC Annual Conference.

Correspondence:

2/21/18	Form 8A – Request for Certificate of Compliance received from the Sheid's, 114 New Ipswich Rd. This was from the prior owner, Umphress.
2/22/18	Michael Smith inquiring about the location of septic plans for the lot on Bennett Rd.
2/25/18	Still in touch with Tom Peragallo waiting for a break in the weather/snow cover for review of wetlands on South Rd property
2/27/18	Denice Child, DEP, acknowledged receipt of Goddard Consulting's requests for Departmental Action on the projects at the corner of West and Jewett Hill Rd.

Old Business:

Open Space Plan and Recreation Plan continues toward update – 2nd public meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 1-3 in the afternoon.

Still waiting for a break in the snow cover for review of the wetland lines on the South Rd property owned by Janet Flinkstrom.

Discussion of the ramifications of Goddard Consulting requesting DEP Departmental Action on his projects, and now inquiring of the Conservation Commission whether the Commission would like him to remand the case back to the Ashby Conservation Commission control. After discussion, there was a draw on whether or not to return the projects to the Commission's control. As a result, the Chair determined the correct action would be to take no action on change of control of the project from DEP back to Ashby Conservation Commission. Cathy will inform the applicant and DEP of the Commission's decision.

Terkanian project on Erickson Rd. Commissioners met on site during with Dan Proctor, the large equipment operator responsible for road construction at the project on 2/23/18 – see site visit notes. The project, 93-307, has been amended twice, most recently in June 2013. The date of the amendment is more than 3 years ago, hence the project has expired. As a result, the Commission will wait for either a request for a site visit or submission of a new NOI from Stan Dillis, the engineer on the project.

4H Camp Middlesex septic replacement has submitted preliminary plans for replacement of existing systems, all of which are within either the 100 ft buffer or 50 ft buffer to the wetlands. Preliminarily, the Commission will most likely approve a replacement system outside the 100 ft buffer to the wetlands, but within the 200 ft RiverFront area, because of the improvement of the current situation. The Commission will await submission of the NOI for the project.

New Business:

In reviewing the Zoning around the percentage of non-wetlands required on a minimum sized lot in Ashby, Cathy found a reference to CM33, which was meant to be 310 CMR 10.00. The Planning Board will make the corrections and submit the changes to the Annual Town Meeting for approval.

Roberta made a motion to have the Commission purchase a 1-year subscription to the electronic version of MACC's Environmental Handbook for Mass. Conservation Commissions for \$15. This will replace the outdated hardcopy handbooks that the Commission now has and finds unusable. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roberta and Cathy attended the MACC Annual Conference. There were a few bit of information, notably the availability of the handbook for \$15/year. Also, in view of Requests for Public Records, Cathy recommended that every email between Commissioners include ConsCom@ashbyma.gov so that all correspondence be available without having to have access to Commissioners' personal email servers.

Alan Pease appeared to had the Commission form 8A, requesting a Certificate of Compliance on the Luke Rd property. The Commission will schedule a site visit for spring, ie. no snow cover.

Hearings: None

Hearings scheduled: None

Site Visits:

2-23-18 Cathy, Bob and Roberta met Dan Proctor at the Terkanian property on Erickson Rd. The applicant is asking that the Commission approve the remainder of the drive construction to the back of the property.

The culvert at the front of the property inserted under the new section of driveway is now deemed complete by the applicant. The culvert is not transporting water. The water appears to either be traveling under the culvert, or, arising from the ground under the culvert. The riprap meant to trap silt from the culvert now extends into the wetlands. It appears that the plans inadequately/incorrectly marked the edge of wetlands for this section of the property.

Plastic netted straw wattles were placed all over the property, rather than wattles with bio-degradable covers. These need to be removed.

The stream crossing has been completed, 1500 ft. (approx.) down the driveway. This is the Commission's first "official" review of the crossing. It is an open bottom culvert. The erosion controls which were in place during construction did not prevent erosion from continuing downstream.

The driveway from the stream to the back of the property is within the 100 ft. buffer to the stream and is within 2 feet of the edge of wetlands at a point roughly 50 ft. beyond the stream crossing.

Review of project files following the site visit confirmed that the OOC was last amended in June, 2013 and hence has expired. The extension of the driveway was only included in the plans submitted for the most recently amended version of the project – 93-307. It is unclear that the Commission noticed that it has been added to the project. It seems unlikely that the Commission would have allowed the driveway to continue to the back of the property within 2 feet of the edge of wetlands.

Roberta exchanged calls with Stan Dillis and confirmed that the project has expired. She told him that it needs to be filed as a new project, as it cannot be extended once it has expired. She suggested to Stan that the Commission arrange a site visit to discuss the project plans prior to Stan spending time submitting current plans as a new project. She suggested that he might want to re-engineer the extension of the driveway to the back of the property to move it away from the edge of the wetlands.

2-23-18 860 Main St. Paul Berquist is the home owner. Bob, Cathy and Roberta viewed the site. No wetlands were within 100 ft. of the proposed location for the system. Bob signed the plans.

2-23-18 Bennett Rd, Michael Smith is the prospective buyer. The property is the site of a proposed single family home. Cathy and Bob walked the site after Roberta called Mr. Smith to confirm the exact location of the property. Roberta stayed at the roadside of the property. The proposed site of the septic system and house were both well outside the 100 ft. buffer to the stream at the bottom of the slope to the right of the proposed construction. Bob signed the plans.

Site Visits Needed:

Trees planted at Mulford's , 71 Russell Hill Road

Pease, Luke Rd - COC

Scheid's, New Ipswich Rd - COC

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Flashman