

Conservation Commission



19 WASHINGTON STREET
SHERBORN, MASSACHUSETTS 01770

May 6, 2010

Sherborn Town Hall

7:00 P.M.

Minutes of the Meeting

Members Present: Susan Tyler, Michael Lesser (Acting Chair), Andrea Stiller, Bridget Graziano (Agent/Administrator), Rob Eckert

Members Absent: Steve Gaskin (Chair), Carl Shedd, Will Willis

Guests: None

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Discussion 1- Wetlands Permitting Software

The Commission discussed potentially budgeting for a new computer program as well as the next steps in reviewing the program for possible adoption, which includes calling other towns for their opinion of the program. Susan agreed to do research on the Town of Grafton Access application and the Bertrum Access application utilized by other surrounding Towns to present to the Commission at the next meeting. Bridget would get Susan a list of Town's who have purchased the application from Bertrum Consulting, so she may call and get feedback on the application.

Discussion 2- Ed Perry resignation as Leland Mill's official volunteer and Conservation Land Management

Bridget explained to the Commission that Ed Perry, who volunteers to manage Leland Mill Pond trails, has resigned from his duties. Bridget asked Laurie Woodward if she would be able to mow the small field area near the parking lot, and she agreed.

Discussion 3- Conservation Land Management

The Commission discussed taking out rails and posts at the land along Farm Road, donated by Dudley Willis. Rob and Michael agreed to remove the fencing on the town's side of the field. Mowing the existing field and removing or planting the sandy area were also discussed as part of enabling public to use the land for recreation purposes. In addition, the Commission discussed fundraising options to be pursued to cover the cost of mowing of Hidden Meadow. Rob will pursue requesting local contributions, possibly in coordination with the Sherborn Rural Land Trust. Bridget will also call local farmers to see who might be able to mow the Schoolhouse lot on Western Avenue. The Commission discussed the costs and budget associated with the various mowings.

Discussion 4- Agricultural Survey

The Commission discussed the recent establishment of the Agricultural Commission. Bridget explained to the Commission she spoke with Cheryl Lekstrom (MA Dept of Agricultural Resources) who gave her some valuable information on the benefits of having an Agricultural Commission in Town. In addition, Bridget presented the Commission with a survey from the Town of Dartmouth's Agricultural Commission, that was sent to the Farmers for voluntary submission. The Commission discussed working with the new Agricultural Commission about how to survey farms in town to develop an inventory of agricultural activities and land to help with agricultural exemptions to wetland regulations.

Approval of Minutes April 2010

Michael moved that the Commission accept the April 15, 2010 minutes. This was seconded. The Commission discussed that two of the members present could not vote to approve the minutes because they were not present at the last meeting, and therefore did not have a quorum to vote to approve the minutes. The Commission decided to wait to the next meeting, when more members are present who attended the 4-15-10 meeting. The motion was dropped.

Agent/Administrator's Report

MACC classes and reimbursement submission for the end of fiscal year –Bridget asked the Commission to submit to all MACC-related reimbursements before the end of May and all others before the end of June.

Golf Course Sub-Committee Schedule meeting for next week- Andrea, Michael, Will- Bridget asked the members that are in the sub-committee to make a date to schedule a meeting at the Conservation Office to discuss the Golf Course.

Eagle Scout Projects – Bridget has a list of projects for the Eagle Scouts and will contact the Scoutmaster.

Violations and Complaints:

190 Maple Street violation with regards to manure placement missed April 19th deadline for contacting the Agent Bridget explained that the manure pile seems to have been moved but the horses are still grazing in the buffer zone of a wetland resource.

111 Coolidge Street –Jennifer Hawkins visited Bridget in the Conservation Office to explain that she felt Sweet Meadow Farm was affecting wetlands resources during its farming operations in the following ways: (a) alteration of natural hydrology, (b) driving along a man made road in the buffer zone to Course Brook, and (c) cutting of trees on Town property along Coolidge Street. Bridget explained that she will write a letter to Ms. Hawkins and the Michaud’s stating her recent findings which are:

(a) Alteration of wetlands hydrology- Bridget traced the historical aerials and found while the field is wet in the spring months it was always maintained as agricultural fields.

(b) Bridget does not have permission to enter the property (she asked the Michauds on April 27, 2010) to assess if the hydrology of the forest wetland adjacent the agricultural fields to determine if this wetland resource has been altered therefore, she cannot say whether this is a violation without viewing the area.

(c) driving golf carts in the buffer zone to the Course Brook and Bordering Vegetated Wetlands- Bridget explained to Patty Michaud (on 4-27-10) that she should not drive in the wetlands or wetland buffer zone unless where allowed for farming purposes under the agricultural exemptions.

(d) the tree removal from Town Land- Bridget had been out to that portion of Town land prior to the complaint and did not see the violation, however, she agreed to re-check the Town’s land along Coolidge Street.

Approval of Determinations of Applicability

The following Determinations were reviewed. Based on the recommendations of the Agent, the determinations were signed and approved by the Commission:

<u>Address</u>	<u>Description of Work</u>	<u>Findings</u>
165 Washington Street	Demolition of deck and reconstruction and removal of trees	NEGATIVE (4-0)
109 Nason Hill Road	Construction of addition	NEGATIVE (4-0)
145 Forest Street	Soil Testing and repair of cesspools	NEGATIVE (4-0)
127 North Main Street	Soil Testing	NEGATIVE (4-0)
15 North Main Street	Certificate of Compliance	GRANTED
27 Hollis Street	Ratify Emergency Certification for new well	RATIFIED (unanimously)

Adjournment: Rob moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 P.M. This was seconded and accepted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Trainor
Minutes Clerk

Cc: Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, Planning Board, Building Dept., Town Clerk, Town Forest, Town Counsel, Sherborn Library, Advisory Committee, D/S Press, Zoning Board of Appeals, Sherborn Garden Club, Forest & Trail Assoc., Assessor, Groundwater Protection Committee, Farm Pond Advisory Committee