

Conservation Commission



19 WASHINGTON STREET
SHERBORN, MASSACHUSETTS 01770

March 15, 2012

Sherborn Town Hall

7:00 P.M.

Minutes of the Meeting

Members Present: Steve Gaskin (Chair), Michael Lesser, Kelly McClintock, Alex Dowse, Andrea Stiller, Bridget Graziano (Administrator/Agent), Camy Rachell Ruck (Minutes Clerk)

Guests: Peter Meagher, David Stowe, Robert Barnicle, Don Marshall, Barclay Morse, Bob Bois, John Dowse, Jeanne Guthrie, Pat LeBlanc, Wayne Perry, John McAllister, Cornelia C. Roberts

Mr. Gaskin called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

Requests for Determination of Applicability

23 Bridle Path - Proposal to Perform Soil Testing and Installation of Replacement Septic System

No one was present to represent the applicant. The Agent presented the proposal to perform soil testing and to install a replacement septic system. The Agent recommended a Negative Determination as no wetlands were found near the property. Mr. Gaskin moved to accept the Agent's recommendation of a Negative Determination. Mr. Lesser seconded and it was voted to approve 5-0.

24 Stoney Brook Road - Proposal to Remove Stone Patio and Construct a New Addition to Existing Dwelling

No one was present to represent the applicant. The Agent presented the proposal to remove an existing stone patio and to construct a new addition to existing dwelling within the footprint of the stone patio. The wetland is northwest of the existing dwelling and over 200' away. She recommended a Negative Determination. Mr. Gaskin moved to accept the Agent's

recommendation of a Negative Determination. Ms. Stiller seconded and it was voted to approve 5-0.

36 Ash Lane Proposal to Perform Soil Testing Determination Decision of 2/29/12

No one was present to represent the applicant. The Agent noted the Commission discussed this proposal during the last meeting. She stated there are no official lot lines and only one parcel. She noted the applicants want to test in the upper fields which are about 25' away from the wetland. Since the applicants want to run pipes to a part of the house that is also next to wetlands, this might also possibly disturb the wetlands which is under the Commission's jurisdiction. The Commission went over the plans of the area. As part of alternatives analysis, Mr. Gaskin asked if the applicant could move the pipes from a different side of the house, and the Agent noted that due to land constraints that will be difficult to accomplish.

Other: Mr. Gaskin asked a member of the audience if he was present for a particular property. The gentlemen stated he was for 23 Bridle Path. Mr. Gaskin explained he had missed the discussion but his project was a Negative Determination and he could proceed with the project.

Discussion

Discussion #1 – Annual Review of the Order of Conditions DEP # SBL-05 Sassamon Trace Golf Course

Mr. Dowse recused himself due to the fact that part of the golf course was built upon his land.

Pete Meagher, David Stowe, Robert Barnicle, Jon Marshall, Barclay Morse, and Bob Bois were present for the annual review of the Order of Conditions. Mr. Meagher presented the Annual Report for Sassamon Trace to the Commission which included the 2011 testing results and the annual report on stormwater, geese/mosquito control and turtle habitat. Mr. Gaskin inquired if there has been any progress toward organic management of other portions of the golf course and asked what are the current practices for the management areas required to be managed organically. Mr. Stowe indicated that hole 4 and fringes of 6/7 are managed organically (as required) but they continue to have crabgrass encroachment. In addition, they continue to use corn gluten to combat the crab grass. Also, noted they have begun to use composted food products as fertilizer. The Agent reported on the questions she sent to Mr. Meager and Mr. Bois on the annual report. Mr. Meager provided answers to these questions. Mr. Bois indicated he will follow up on the questions that were not answered and send the Commission the answers.

Mr. Lesser stated that given the test results to date that he would be comfortable voting to forgo testing for one year and use that money towards peer review of testing regime and all Annual Reports and monitoring data. This review would also include the status and plans for organic course practices. He explained the peer review would hopefully provide valuable information on the current testing regime and that perhaps testing could be reduced as requested by Sassamon Golf course and/or other testing locations on site could yield better results for the particular chemicals for which they are currently testing. The Commission agreed that the peer review would allow for a better understanding of all the testing data compiled over the years.

It was discussed that the Commission was willing to limit the review cost to the avoided cost of one year of testing. It was noted that the draft Scope of work for the review might cost more than this amount. Mr. Lesser stated that he would agree, if needed, to break up the review work into parts so that if needed the testing regime could be reviewed first, and then other areas such as organic practices would be reviewed in a subsequent year possibly based on deferring some testing and its costs.

The Commission reviewed Bob Bois' comments on the Scope of Work for a peer review draft by the Commission members. The Agent asked if the Commission and Golf Course staff could agree on a Scope of Work to send out for cost proposals. All involved agreed this could be done before the next testing in October. Mr. Gaskin stated that they should all keep working on this project in order to make progress and thanked them for attending the discussion.

Discussion #2 –Forestry Stewardship Public Forum

The Agent reported she and Mr. McClintock spoke about how to facilitate the Forestry Stewardship plan Public Forum. Both agreed a PowerPoint presentation would work well because of the visual component, instead of one person just speaking the entire time. The Agent was concerned about one person making the PowerPoint for others who are presenting, like Phil Benjamin and George Fiske. Mr. Gaskin stated money from the conservation fund can be budgeted for this. Mr. Dowse moved that the Commission authorize to expend a sum of money from the conservation fund to prepare materials as required for public outreach on the Forestry Stewardship Plans and open space management in general. Mr. Gaskin seconded and it was voted to approve 5-0. Mr. Lesser requested a draft outline of the PowerPoint presentation including texts and pictures.

Public Hearing

(DEP # 283-288) Request for Amendment to Order of Conditions Farm Pond Stormwater Improvements

Wayne Petty and John McAllister from Norfolk Ram Group were present on behalf of the Town (applicant) to present a plan to amend the Order of Conditions 283-288. The proposal would amend the conditions to complete improvements to a public access path to Farm Pond. The improvement would be to reduce the amount of stormwater run-off and its contaminants entering Farm Pond. The Commission and Mr. McAllister reviewed and discussed the plans for the improvements to the path. Mr. McAllister is proposing to install a Geoblock/Geoweb to stabilize the path, rip-rap swale discharging into a catch basin and then discharging into a culvert chamber. The path will be reinforced with the Geo-Web and filled with stones, and that will help reduce the velocity of run-off on the path. Mr. McClintock indicated he sees very little use of the path, and asked why they want to propose all these improvements to it. Ms. Guthrie stated the path has always been there and it is an easy access from the parking lot and something needs to be done to make the path safe. Additionally, she stated that if they did nothing, there will be serious erosion. Mr. Lesser asked if the Farm Pond Advisory Committee (FPAC) has reviewed these plans and has agreed with these specific improvements to the path. Furthermore, Mr. Lesser

asked if putting a swale is needed due to the amount of water that runs over which, might not be much. Mr. McAllister indicated that it is not the volume of water they worry but the velocity. Mr. Lesser stated he wanted to know the minimum project that addresses the run-off and erosion to avoid disturbances during and from implementation. He also stated that a more natural design, such as less rip-rap in the swale would be preferred, though he noted that the esthetics of the project are not the purview of the Commission. Ms. Stiller indicated has concerns for the amount of disturbance and any excavation could cause damage to root systems of trees. The Agent requested the width of the path be reduced at the end where it meets the beach. Mr. McAllister agreed this could be done as well as some other design changes to lessen the project's disturbance. Additionally, the Agent asked if CM& D will be responsible for completing all required maintenance, and Mr. Perry said they will. Ms. Guthrie agreed to have the FPAC meet and discuss the project and its improvements prior to the next Conservation Commission meeting. This meeting would confirm what the FPAC would like to see for improvement (minimal disturbances). It was also discussed that, prior to further discussion, a meeting before the BOS could also get additional public inputs that might lead to project changes. Mr. Dowse moved to continue the hearing to April 5th at 8pm. Mr. Gaskin seconded and it was voted to approve 5-0.

Approval of Minutes of January 29th, 2012:

Mr. Gaskin moved to approve the minutes of January 29th, as amended at the meeting. Mr. McClintock seconded and it was voted to approve 5-0.

Administrator/Agent Report

- **CM& D Washing of Vehicles:** The Agent indicated CM&D were pre-washing the vehicles outside their designated washing bay which is equipped with a special tight tank for washing. She indicated she spoke with Ed and told them they cannot rinse vehicles outside before taking the vehicles inside to wash. This is a condition of the Operations and Maintenance Plan.
- **March 8th BOS Meeting:** Mr. Lesser reported on the meeting by stating that the Board of Selectmen's Meeting for the review of the Warrant Articles was administrative and there was nothing to report.
- **111 Coolidge Street New Agriculture Land:** The Agent indicated the property owner wants to build a chicken coop and the structure would be less than 120 square feet and over 100' away from wetland resource. She spoke with the property owner and sent him an RDA and information about filing for expansion of agricultural land.
- **NSTAR YOP and Vegetation Plan:** The Agent has reviewed their plan and has sent NSTAR a letter indicating where the sensitive resources are located.
- **Silverwood Farm Lease/License Agreement:** The Agent spoke with Town Counsel and reported that it was Town Counsel's opinion that entering into a license agreement with a local farmer would have to be for one year and able to be revocable at any time. So it would be in the farmer's and Commission's best interest to use a lease if the amount of time would be longer than one year.
- **New Member:** The Agent reported to the Commission that the candidates for the open seat on the Commission should be recommended for appointment to the BOS. The Agent

said a recommendation will be helpful for the selectmen. Mr. Gaskin moved to recommend both candidates, Robert Eckert and Julia Jacobson, to the Board of Selectmen because each of them brings different skills and experience that would be useful for the Commission and let them make the choice. Mr. McClintock seconded and it was voted to approve 5-0.

- **Stormwater Update:** The Agent reported she reviewed the proposal for the cost of stormwater compliance from the end of the 2003 permit and the new 2012 permit.
- **Violation Update – 33 Old Orchard Road/17 Page Farm Road:** The Agent indicated the property owner at 17 Page Farm Road cut trees next to a wetland resource and left wood chips along the wetland. She stated that she will meet with the property owner to Review the trees which were removed. At 33 Old Orchard Road, chips were found next to the BVW and the Agent has sent a Violation Order.

Adjournment: There being no other business to attend to, Mr. Gaskin moved to adjourn at 9:28 P.M., Mr. Stiller seconded and it was voted to approve 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Rachell Ruck
Minutes Clerk

Documents Presented at the March 15, 2012 Public Meeting

All documents shall be kept in the Conservation Commission Office files

Discussion

Annual Review of the Order of Conditions DEP # SBL-05 Sassamon Trace Golf Course

- Sassamon Golf Course Annual Review, dated March 15, 2012
- Letter from Robert Barnicle and David Stowe to the Conservation Commission, dated March 12, 2012
- Letter from Norfolk-Ram to Mr. Robert Bois tittle, “Golf Courses Monitoring – October 2011 Sampling Round Sassamon Trace Golf Course, Sherborn, MA Norfolk Project #: 1398.001.02”, dated November 18, 2011
- Sassamon Trace Golf Course: Scope of Work for Review of Sherborn Conservation Commission Conditions in Perpetuity, draft dated March 13, 2011
- Norfolk Ram Plan, title, “Figure 1: Site Plan Sassamon Trace Golf Course Route 27, Natick, Massachusetts 1398.001.02”, dated January 5, 2011
- Groundwater Gauging & Quality Data Table 1-4
- Sassamon Trace Golf Course: Scope of Work for Review of Sherborn Conservation Commission Conditions in Perpetuity, draft dated June xx, 2011
- Golf Course Monitoring Locations, Natick GIS

Public Hearing

(DEP # 283-288) Request for Amendment to Order of Conditions Farm Pond Stormwater Improvements

- Farm Pond Stormwater Improvement (283-0288), dated March 15, 2012
- Stormwater Report Farm Pond 319 Grant, dated February 16, 2012
- Existing Conditions Farm Pond Cart Path, Lake Street Sherborn, Massachusetts, dated February 18, 2012
- Order of Conditions, DEP # 283-288 issued on June 17, 2006 to the Town of Sherborn, Farm Pond Improvements

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