

Conservation Commission



19 WASHINGTON STREET
SHERBORN, MASSACHUSETTS 01770

May 3, 2012

Sherborn Town Hall

7:00 P.M.

Minutes of the Meeting

Members Present: Michael Lesser (acting Chair), Kelly McClintock, Alex Dowse, Andrea Stiller, Bridget Graziano (Administrator/Agent), Susan Tyler (arrived at 8:13 PM)

Guests: John Higely, Wayne Perry, John McAllister, Jeanne Guthrie, Catherine Rocchio, Pat Cassell, Robin Perera, John Stevens, Charles Yan, Xavier Piedra, Jessica Pettit, George Fiske, Wende Ractliffe

Mr. Lesser called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M.

Approval of Minutes of April 5th & 23rd 2012:

Mr. McClintock moved to approve the minutes of April 5th, as amended at the meeting. Mr. Lesser seconded and it was voted to approve 4-0.

Mr. Lesser moved to approve the minutes of April 23rd, as amended at the meeting. Mr. Stiller seconded and it was voted to approve 4-0.

Administrator/Agent Report

- **Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Requesting to do work on Town land -**
The Agent presented the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Controls request to removed organic debris from around a brook. The Commission thought a site visit should be made before a decision was made. Mr. Lesser thought it would be best to also speak with property owners who had also received this notice to see if they have allowed the work on their property. The Agent agreed to complete a site visit, speak with the other property owners, and contact Katrina Proctor to discuss the project. This item will be added to the 5/17 agenda.
- **11 Harrington Ridge Road Letter** – The Agent presented Mr. Goldman’s request to apply for a Certificate of Compliance. She reported that she had received the letter and

contacted Mr. Goldman to explain the process for request a Certificate of Compliance. Mr. Goldman agreed to file the proper documentation to complete the request.

- **Land Management** – The Agent mentioned her efforts to review all the properties managed by the Commission. Mr. Dowse noted that it could be possible to have CM&D mow some of our lands with the new equipment purchased by the Highway Department. The Agent agreed to call Ed Wagner to ask if the equipment has mowing capabilities. Mr. Lesser asked Mr. Dowse to work with the Agent in speaking with Mr. Wagner about the use of the mower for Conservation lands. The Commission asked the Agent to have Laurie Woodward attend the next meeting, after her meeting to discuss the Hopestill Reservation. The Commission wanted to ask her about management of a portion of Hopestill.

Not on the Agenda-

Ms. Tyler requested that the Commission review the FY 12 Budget at next meeting.

The Agent noted that there are two members up for reappointment and she would like to add this to the next agenda, so Mr. Dowse and Ms. Tyler should be prepared with their decisions to stay on the Commission. Both Mr. Dowse and Ms. Tyler agreed right then they would like to stay on the Commission.

Discussions

Discussion #1 – Planning Board presenting Town Center Report-

John Higley presented the town center report to the Commission, supplying them with a breakdown of the report for an easier read. Mr. McClintock asked about the time line for the Planning Board to finalize this report and when it would come to fruition. Mr. Higley stated the Board would be collecting information and updating the plan. He mentioned this plan consists of possible zoning amendments, addition of town water and or sewer. Ms. Stiller asked if we need both sewer and water. Mr. Higley replied that he is working on the cost of adding sewer to the downtown, but does not know if both would be needed. Mr. Lesser commented that one set of issues for the Commission is the impact of any wetlands would effect the improvement/expansion of Sherborn's downtown. He noted the presence of wetlands on the west side of the train tracks but thought development would be feasible in the buffer zone areas given their altered nature and possibilities for mitigation. The Commission would look at the wetland areas to see if there are any major issues that would inhibit the development of downtown. Agent noted that stormwater requirements would come into play should the development result in impervious surface over 1 acre. It was also noted that the Commission could also have comments on broader open space aspects of the downtown area.

Susan arrived at 8:13PM.

Mr. Higley noted that if the Commission has thoughts or inputs it can send them along to planning. The Commission agreed to think about the wetlands and the buffer zone. Mr. Higley would like to see maps locating the wetlands. The Commission agreed to talk over the plan and

any broader issues and get back to the Planning Board. The Agent will send information on the wetlands and the buffer zones.

Discussion #2 – 27 Farm Road Violation

Xavier Piedra, property owner of 27 Farm Road presented that he had recently constructed a fence on his property and that he was subsequently contacted by the Agent and she had explained to him that the fence was located in a wetland resource area known as a freshwater water and riverfront. He then explained that he came to town hall in 2010 and spoke with a person in Town Hall who explained to him he did not need a permit for the fence. The Commission wanted to fully understand the violation so a site visit was requested. Mr. Piedra agreed. The Agent suggested, Tuesday, 9am at 27 Farm Road. The Agent was asked to send out a notice of the site visit.

Discussion #3 – 101 Woodland Street Wende Ractliffe and George Fiske

Mr. Fiske of the Sherborn Rural Land Foundation (SRLF) discussed with the Commission some upcoming proposals by the SRLF. The SRLF is possibly selling their property along Woodland Street to Ms. Ractliffe, an abutter of this land. A condition would be set on the sale that the property must have a Conservation Restriction on the property. There would also be the possibility of new trails and additional public access for existing trails as part of a broader trail plan in that area. If this land is sold to Ms. Ractliffe, she would intend to use the property for the grazing of horses. Mr. Fiske thought it would be best to stake the corners of the proposed fencing for the horses for the Commission and/or Agent to review the wetland line and its proximity to the fencing and potential grazing horses. The Agent will be contacted when the stakes are in place to review the location of the proposed fencing. The Commission thanked Mr. Fiske and Ms. Ractliffe for the update.

Discussion #4- 152 Maple Street Enforcement Order

The Agent presented the letter from Mr. Stern the property owner of 152 Maple Street. The Commission read the letter. Mr. Lesser noted he does not think the Commission should consider changing the requirements of the Enforcement Order. He asked anyone else had reasons to allow for the change of the requirement in the Enforcement Order for the number of plantings. Mr. Lesser moved to make no change to the requirements of the original Enforcement Order given the density of planting required by the Commission still allows for management of invasive species in between the plantings – the issue raised by the property owner. Ms. Tyler seconded and it was voted to approve 5-0.

Public Hearing

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

Mr. Lesser opened the hearing for Farm Pond at 8:00 PM. Mr. McAllister presented the new proposal for the cart path improvements. It was noted that the catch basin has been relocated to limit the amount of disturbed area. Mr. Lesser asked if the design has been approved by the Board of Selectmen and the Farm Pond Advisory Committee (FPAC). Ms. Rocchio stated the FPAC supports the plan for improvement but has not seen the final plan. Ms. Guthrie noted the BOS have not approved this design and were waiting for the Commissions determination. The

Commission discussed the path and construction. The Agent asked questions on the size of the path, if this could be reduce at the end, erosion control line, construction sequence, and annual report on maintenance.

Mr. Lesser moved to close hearing, Mr. McClintock seconded and it was voted to approve 4-0.

Mr. Lesser stated the Commission hereby finds that the all work within the buffer zone will have no negative effect on the Farm Pond. The applicant has proposed sufficient erosion controls for the protection of Farm Pond during construction activities. All proposed work shall take place within altered buffer zone, as it is currently a pedestrian dirt path. The project provides the benefit of controlling stormwater run-off and reducing non-point source pollutants contained in stormwater runoff from entering Farm Pond. The Commission further finds that the applicant has presented evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the proposed activity will not cause alteration to Farm Pond and will provide an overall improvement of water quality, wildlife habitat, pollution prevention, stormwater damage prevention.

The Agent read the conditions to be added to the Order and the conditions to be amended on the OOC 283-288. Inspecting party shall be designated as CM&D and the Contractor is to be determined. It was added that if the vegetated swale does not survive, it will be required to be replanted once and then if still does not survive; rip rap will replace the vegetated swale.

Mr.Lesser moved to approve the proposed project with the special conditions and amendments to the original Order of Conditions. Mr. McClintock seconded and it was voted to approve 4-0.

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,

Bridget R. Graziano
Sherborn Conservation Administrator/Agent

Documents Presented at the May 3, 2012 Public Meeting

All documents shall be kept in the Conservation Commission Office files

Discussions

Discussion 1 Planning Board Presented Town Center Report

- **Town Center Report for Sherborn dated 11/2/11**

Discussion 2

- **Assessor's Map 2012**
- **ArcGIS 9.3.1 with MassGIS data 2003**

Discussion 3

- **Assessor's Map 2012**
- **ArcGIS 9.3.1 with MassGIS data 2003**

Discussion 4

- **Letter from Mr. Stern to the Sherborn Conservation Commission dated April 16, 2012**

Public Hearings

Public Hearing 1

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

- Farm Pond Stormwater Improvement (283-0288), dated 2/16/12, revision 3/29/12
- 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

