

# Conservation Commission



19 WASHINGTON STREET  
SHERBORN, MASSACHUSETTS 01770

November 1, 2012  
Sherborn Town Hall  
7:00 P.M.

Minutes of the Meeting

**Members Present:** Michael Lesser, Susan Tyler, Alex Dowse, Kelly McClintock, and Bridget Graziano (Administrator/Agent)

**Guests:** Mike Francis and Susanne Haber

Mr. Lesser called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

## **Determinations**

### **41 Green Lane - Proposal to install Geo Thermal Well**

No one was present to represent the applicant. The Agent presented the applicant's proposal to install a geo thermal well under the existing driveway. She reported that the proposed work will take place outside the Commission's jurisdiction; therefore, she recommended a Negative Determination be issued. She noted two wetland resources present over 300' from limit of work and noted on plan, the other is a Vernal Pool across Green Lane from the parcel of 41 Green Lane. Mr. Dowse moved to accept the Agent recommendation. Mr. McClintock seconded and it was voted to approve 4-0.

### **26 Peckham Hill Road - Proposal to perform soil testing**

No one was present to represent the applicant. The Agent presented the applicant's proposal to perform soil testing, but she could not make a recommendation for approval of the replacement septic system installation due to insufficient information about its location. She reported that the proposed work for soil testing will take place outside the Commission's jurisdiction; therefore, she recommended a Negative Determination be issued. She also noted the applicant must submit a proposed replacement septic system plan for review by the Commission, prior to installation.

Mr. Lesser moved to accept the Agent's recommendation. Mr. McClintock seconded and it was voted to approve 4-0.

**Rocky Narrows - Proposal to install beaver fencing, complete trail maintenance, and remove sediment from wetland**

Susanne Haber & Mike Francis were present on behalf of the Trustees of Reservations (TTOR). Mr. Francis presented the proposal for the installation of fencing to deter beaver activity near a culvert, trail maintenance within this area (which had been washed out due to beaver activity), and removal of sediment from wetland from trail erosion. The Agent presented Mike Callahan of Beaver Solutions' findings from their site visit, at which she was present. In addition, she noted her finding from the site visit as well. The Commission discussed the proposal and the sediment removal from the wetland. The Agent presented her recommendation of a Negative 2 & 3 Determination with special conditions. Mr. Dowse thought this project would be educational for trail restoration and how to live with beavers. Mr. Dowse moved to accept the Agent recommendation with conditions. Mr. McClintock seconded and it was voted to approve 4-0. Mr. Francis mentioned to the Commission that TTOR would be hosting an educational workshop on beavers and the members are invited.

**10 Dexter Drive - Proposal to install Distribution Box**

No one was present to represent that applicant. The Agent presented the applicant's proposal to install a replacement distribution box. She reported that the proposed work will take place outside the Commission's jurisdiction, approximately 138' from the wetland resource; therefore, she recommended a Negative Determination be issued. Mr. Lesser moved to accept the Agent recommendation. Mr. Dowse seconded and it was voted to approve 4-0.

**CSX Rail Trail - Proposal to complete trail maintenance, including removal of invasive species, removal of hazardous trees/shrubs, and addition of chips to create walking trail**

The Sherborn Conservation Commission was the applicant for the proposal to complete trail maintenance, invasive species removal, and walking trail for the newly acquired CSX Rail Line. The Agent reported on her recent site visit she conducted at the trail, noting she marked the invasive species to be removed and hazardous trees to be removed along the trail. She noted that the invasives to be removed were originally proposed to be chipped, but she would recommend against this action since there is a possibility that the seeds would be spread and cause a larger infestation. She recommended approval of the proposed project as Negative 3 Determination, if invasive species were not chipped and were not placed along the trail and if the special conditions discussed were followed or met during maintenance. Ms. Tyler suggested transporting the invasive species to Schoolhouse Lot and placed on an existing brush pile, where they will be burned. The Agent agreed and liked this idea. Mr. Dowse moved to accept the Agent recommendation of Negative 3 Determination with special conditions regarding invasive species removal. Mr. Lesser seconded and it was voted to approve 4-0.

**Discussions**

**Discussion #1 - Hire of Temp Agent**

Mr. Lesser reported on the most recent interview for the temporary Agent position. He stated that Ms. Graziano, Mr. Gaskin and he interviewed Karyn Kaplan, who worked as an Agent for the Town of Natick in 2000. It was decided she was qualified and she was hired as a consultant to temporarily fill the Agent's role while she is on maternity leave. In addition, he noted that Joyce Hastings of GLM Engineering would be filing in as a consultant as well to work on some of the Commission's large projects, such as Whitney Farm, as well as technical wetland's related support for Ms. Kaplan. The Agent noted that Mr. Gaskin will manage the work load and hours between the two consultants.

**Discussion #2 - Forest Stewardship progress at Barber Reservation**

The Agent reported on her recent discussion with Phil Benjamin, a Service Forester who had been working for the Commission on the Forest Stewardship Plan. She stated that he would be able to complete the tree tagging at Barber Reservation the first week of December, which meant that the public outreach walk would not take place until after the holidays, sometime at the beginning of January 2013. She noted that Mr. Benjamin mentioned it would be difficult for the trees to be unmarked once marked, if the Commission or Agent determined a particular tree (s) marked was too close to a wetland resource or was critical to the wetland resource or wildlife habitat. The Commission discussed the buffer zones for wetland and decided that marking Bordering Vegetated Wetlands up to the 50' buffer zone line and Vernal Pools up to the 100' buffer zone line. In addition, the Commission determined that they should meet with Mr. Benjamin in the field when flagging. The Agent asked for one member to be the point of contact for Mr. Benjamin. Mr. McClintock agreed to do so. The Agent brought up asking permission for the machinery for tree cutting to cross the NSTAR and gas line. Mr. Dowse stated that the gas line is abandoned and there is no need for anyone to be contacted. Mr. Lesser suggested asking NSTAR when the Agent spoke with them, who they contacted for crossing the gas line. The Agent agreed.

**Discussion #3- Letter from Carlie Cichocki on open space at Barber Reservation**

The Agent read letter a from Carlie Cichocki a Sherborn resident. She was thanking the Agent and Commissioners for their work to preserve Barber Reservation for public enjoyment.

**Discussion #4 - Sassamon Trace Golf Course Testing**

Mr. Lesser presented that he and Ms. Stiller will work to complete the scope of work originally presented to the Commission in March/April 2012 for a consultant to review all data submitted by Sassamon Trace Golf Course for testing in order to see if they can reduce their testing regime. He stated that he recently informed Mr. Bois, Natick's Environmental Compliance Officer that he would recommend to the Commission that the golf course hold off on testing for October 2012 and earmark for hiring the consultant. After discussion, the Commission will request that Natick put money in an escrow account for the hire of a consultant.

**Approval of Minutes of October 18, 2012**

Mr. Lesser asked for this item to be postponed for more review of the minutes.

**Administrator/Agent Report**

- **Agent leave preparation - The Agent asked Mr. Lesser and Mr. McClintock to meet with her on Wednesday, November 7 after the site visits to review the office operations as they have volunteered to complete the turnover and bills for the office while the Agent is on maternity leave .**
- **Update from Land Management Task Force Team - Mr. McClintock reported on the recent meeting and the work to review Barber Reservation for land maintenance at a meeting on 11/14/12 from 1-3 pm at George Fiskes office.**
- **MACC Classes - The Agent encouraged the members to take the classes.**
- **Barber Reservation Maintenance - The Agent reported on her site visit with George Fiske for the work to clear some of the vegetation from along the stone walls at Barber Reservation. Ms. Tyler mentioned that the fencing along the road also needs to be repaired or re-constructed. Mr. Lesser asked her to speak with Mr. Fiske about finding someone to do this.**
- **Rising Tide/ Whitney Farms-** The Agent reported that she has begun to spend a considerable amount of time on this project and when she leaves someone will need to spend some more time on this project. The Commission suggested that the Agent send a letter to Josh Posner, the property owner of Whitney Farms, regarding the Agent's significant recent time spent obtaining and organizing information needed from the superintendent of the project and other people involved in order for project construction to begin. The Commission discussed that there should be some limit on the hours assisting with this, as it is clear and stated in the Order of Conditions and that the Commission could require the hiring of a consultant at the applicants cost if the applicant was not complying with the requirements of the Order and causing Commission staff to spend more time assisting with understanding and complying with the Order.

**Adjournment:** There being no other business to attend to, Mr. Lesser moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:29pm. Ms. Tyler seconded the motion and it moved to pass 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget R. Graziano  
Sherborn Conservation Commission Administrator/Agent

Documents Presented at the November 1, 2012 Public Meeting

All documents shall be kept in the Conservation Commission Office files

Agenda for 11/1/12 Draft Meeting Minutes of 10/18/12

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