

# Conservation Commission



19 WASHINGTON STREET  
SHERBORN, MASSACHUSETTS 01770

December 6, 2012

Sherborn Town Hall

7:00 P.M.

Minutes of the Meeting

**Members Present:** Steve Gaskin (Chair), Kelly McClintock, Andrea Stiller, Susan Tyler, and Karyn Kaplan (Temporary Administrator/Agent). Michael Lesser arrived at 7:05 p.m. Julia Jacobson arrived at 7:54 p.m.

**Absent Members:** Alex Dowse.

**Guests:** Bob Murchison of 177 Lake Street and Mikhail Deychma representing 185 Woodland Street.

Mr. Gaskin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

## **Determinations:**

### **168 Maple Street – Proposal to construct a new addition**

The Agent reported that all proposed work is outside the buffer zone and therefore recommended a Negative Determination. Mr. Gaskin moved to accept the Agent's recommendation. Ms. Stiller seconded the motion and it was voted to approved 4-0-1. (Lesser and Jacobson were not present.)

### **177 Lake Street – Proposal to install new well and new septic system line**

The Agent reported that all proposed work is outside the buffer zone and therefore recommended a Negative Determination. Mr. Gaskin moved to accept the Agent's recommendation. Mr. McClintock seconded the motion and it was voted to approved 4-0-1. (Lesser and Jacobson were not present.)

**185 Woodland Street – Revised plan for septic installation; minor amendment under existing Order of Conditions**

The percolation test failed in the area originally designated for the septic system. The applicant requested an amendment to the Order of Conditions to move the septic system to another area outside the buffer zone.

Because the new location is outside of the buffer zone, Mr. Gaskin moved that the requested change be considered a Minor Amendment to the Order of Conditions. Ms. Tyler seconded the motion and it was voted to approve 5-0. (Jacobson was not present.)

Mr. Gaskin moved to accept the Minor Amendment to the Order of Conditions. Mr. McClintock seconded the motion and it was voted to approve 5-0. (Jacobson was not present.)

**Discussions:****Discussion #1 – Enforcement Order, 237 Washington Street, Racine Farm**

The Temporary Agent and the Building Inspector conducted a site inspection. Mr. David Strathy of Altisource, who represents the property owner, was advised that the property requires a containment assessment pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 21E (“21E Assessment”) and that the owner must file a Request for Determination from the Commission once results are available from the sample testing conducted as part of the 21E Assessment.

The Temporary Agent thought that the owner may wish to commence removal of stumps and site debris located outside of the buffer zone. Ms. Stiller advised that (i) removing such debris prior to the 21E Assessment would obscure locations that may require testing to assess for environmental contamination and (ii) the 21E Assessment should commence immediately.

**Discussion #2 – Barber Reservation – Stone Wall Clearing & Forest Management Project**

• **Stone Wall Clearing:** Mr. McClintock reported that clearing of brush and trees around the stone wall is needed. Mr. Lesser suggested a site visit prior to commencement of clearing.

• **Forest Management:** Mr. McClintock reported that Bill Benjamin will mark trees during the week of December 10, 2012. A site visit and forest walk may be scheduled for January 2013. Mr. McClintock also noted that Mr. Benjamin has had difficulty crossing over power lines with his truck, and, accordingly, may need to park near a vernal pool. Ms. Kaplan (Temporary Agent) will contact NSTAR to obtain permission for Mr. Benjamin with respect to NSTAR’s easement.

**Discussion #3 – FY14 Budget Discussion**

Mr. Lesser presented for discussion several FY2014 budget issues. He noted that the greatest expense will be conservation land maintenance costs. It was decided that the Commission will discuss FY2014 expenses during subsequent meetings.

A salary increase for the Agent was discussed. Mr. Lesser presented a multi-year plan for gradually increasing the Agent’s salary to the salary level commensurate with salaries for experienced agents. A small “step” increase (over the COLA increase) would be part of a ten-year plan that will be presented to the Town committees. Ms. Jacobson moved to offer the

Agent a salary increase of one percent (1%) (i.e., approximately \$\_\_\_\_) over the COLA increase. Mr. Lesser seconded the motion. The motion voted to pass 5-1. Ms. Tyler opposed the salary increase, citing issues from previous years, as well as anticipated land management costs and other budget constraints.

#### **Discussion #4 - Beaver Dam at Mill Pond**

The Temporary Agent reported that a beaver dam on Mill Pond may affect five or more private proximate properties. Ms. Tyler reported her attendance at a discussion about beaver habitat issues at Rocky Woods in Framingham, during which two individuals who trap beavers spoke about the health, safety, and property issues that can result from beaver dams. Ms. Tyler felt that rising water levels at Mill Pond could cause the abutters to experience some or all of these issues. It was noted that installment of a water-leveling system, which would cost an estimated \$1,200, is one possible solution. While the Commission is not required to pay the cost of such system, the Commission may want to coordinate with the abutters. Ms. Tyler suggested that the Animal Control Officer perform a site visit to assess the issue prior to any further discussion or action.

#### **Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2012**

Mr. Gaskin moved to accept the Minutes as amended. Mr. Lesser seconded the motion. The motion voted to pass 4-0-2. Mr. McClintock and Ms. Jacobson abstained from the vote as they did not attend the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **Adjournment:**

With no other business before the Commission, Mr. Gaskin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Ms. Stiller seconded the motion and it was voted to approve 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Pettit  
Minutes Clerk

## **Documents Presented at the December 6, 2012 Public Meeting**

(All documents are retained in the Conservation Commission Office.)

### **Determinations:**

#### **168 Maple Street**

1. Proposed Plot Plan for 168 Maple Street, dated 10/26/2012.

#### **177 Lake Street**

1. Site Plan for 177 Lake Street, dated 11/5/2012.

#### **185 Woodland Street**

1. Proposed Location Septic System, Map 8 Lot 40B-2B, dated 11/26/2012.

### **Discussions:**

#### **Discussion 3**

1. "Conservation Commission: FY14 Budget Issues – Preliminary Work" dated 12/6/2012.

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