

Conservation Commission



19 WASHINGTON STREET
SHERBORN, MASSACHUSETTS 01770

February 6, 2014
Sherborn Town Hall
7:00 P.M.
Minutes of the Meeting

Members Present: Michael Lesser, Kelly McClintock, Jessica Pettit, Julia Jacobsen, and Bridget Graziano (Conservation Administrator/Agent)

Members Absent: Steve Gaskin (Chair), Alex Dowse, Andrea Stiller

Guests: Chris Tullman, Cindy Ostrowski, Rick Antell, Laura Dailey, Jason Frigiani, Ellen Bendremer, Cindy Dexter, Susan Tyler

Mr. Lesser called the meeting to order at 7:23 pm. He notified the commission that Ms. Tyler would be recording the meeting.

Mr. Lesser asked for any items not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours of the meeting. There were none.

Determinations

46 Forest Street - Proposal to perform soil testing

No one was present to represent the applicant. The Agent presented the applicant's proposal to perform soil testing, noting that a small wetland is present but not within 100' of the limit of work. Therefore, the Agent recommended a Negative Determination be issued by the Commission for soil testing only, as the Commission does not have enough information to determine where the system would be placed. Mr. McClintock moved to accept the Agent's recommendation. Ms. Pettit seconded and it was voted to approve 3-0-1, Mr. Lesser abstaining (since he is an abutter and unclear if any conflict of interest).

36 Parks Drive – Proposal to perform soil testing

The Commission continued the Determination as the applicant requested a 21-day waiver.

Certificate of Compliance

52 South Main Street - Request for Certificate of Compliance

The Commission continued the Request as the applicant requested a 21-day waiver and requested a continuance until further notice.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of 1/16/14 - not yet reviewed by Commission continued to next meeting.

Public Hearings

Public Hearing #1 – Sherborn Wetlands Regulations

Mr. Lesser opened the hearing at 7:42 pm. The Commission discussed adopting minor edits to the Regulations sooner and discussing more substantive changes later. Mr. Lesser moved to continue the Public Hearing to 7:30 pm on Thursday, February 20, 2014. Mr. McClintock seconded and it was voted to approve 4-0.

Discussions

Discussion #1 – Brush Hill Trail System Review for Improvements

Mr. Chris Tullman, President of the Sherborn Forest and Trails Association, presented a possible improvement to the Brush Hill Trail System that is a part of the Bay Circuit Trail. The Commission agreed to a site visit. Mr. Tullmann explained that the Association has been building maps of open areas in town using GPS devices and could make the data available for town use. Mr. Tullman asked if there were other improvements needed on portions of the Bay Circuit Trail that are on Town conservation land because it is possible there could be Appalachian Mountain Club funding available for such projects. The Agent reviewed flooding issues with the portion of the trail that Mr. Tullman would like to review for improvement. She noted that it would be better to correct issues that have caused the flooding and then review the area to see what bridge or improvements may be needed to safely travel the trail. The Agent was asked to set up a site visit.

Discussion #2 – Review of grant application for FSP outreach program

The Agent asked if the Commission would like her to pursue drafting a grant application for a 50/50 match to complete forestry work and complete restoration of the Barber Reservation barn. The grant is a matching funds award (50% to 50%) and could be used for any work at lands under a Forestry Stewardship Plan that follows the recommendation of the forester. The Agent is proposing to cut timber from Barber under the Forestry Stewardship Plan, the state has offered a portable saw mill to cut the timber for use to complete repairs to the barn, this project will show sustainability. The Agent explained she needed the following in order to draft the grant:

- Volunteers to cut trees or CM&D (will need their hourly rate)
- Peter Brockway to bring cut trees to the parking lot
- Outreach -dates

- Coordinate with Weston for dates on sharing the saw mill
- Walter Avallone (Building Inspector) to look at barn, and expert to discuss repair issues
- Volunteers to work on barn repairs.

The Commission encouraged the Agent to submit an application for the grant and offered to help in the application process.

Discussion #3 – Vote on expending funds for Agent to become certified as an Invasive Species Manager

The Commission discussed expending funds for the Agent to become certified as an Invasive Species Manager. The cost was estimated at \$300 for the training. Budgeted funding as well as other sources of funding were discussed as possible ways to cover the cost of this professional training. The Commission felt this was very important and she should attend if funding was sought from other sources. She agreed to find another source.

Discussion #4 – MOU for Hopestill Reservation

Mr. McClintock will present more at the next meeting about the Hopestill Reservation. Any documents written will not constitute a conveyance in the form of a lease or a license, but will be a contractual Memorandum of Understanding.

Signing of Warrant

No warrant to sign.

Conservation Administrator / Agent Report

- **Conservation land maintenance** – Mr. Lesser noted that a neighbor of Hidden Meadow might continue to maintain the trails around the field and should be contacted.
- **Sign Conflict of Interest Summary 2014** – Members of the Commission signed the Conflict of Interest Summary form for 2014.
- **247 Washington Street - ch 61A sale** - The Agent asked to have this reviewed at the February 20, 2014 meeting. She noted the Commission was asked to provide comments on whether or not this property would be worth acquiring.
- **Pulte Proposal for emergency access on Conservation Land** – The Agent noted that she has been sent plans designed by Pulte Homes from the Planning Board. This plan was presented at the last Planning Board meeting. It depicts an emergency access route through Conservation Commission controlled land. Residents of McGregor Drive were present to present concerns with this proposed access road. Mr. Frigiani presented information about the proposed Pulte development as he understood them from attending Planning Board meetings. He reported that Pulte proposes to construct a motorable way that is 16 feet wide with additional 4-foot wide buffers on both sides; he believes that the total width could possibly be up to 24 feet. The length is estimated to be 15,000 feet. The residents' concerns included the proximity to a well, the impact upon drinking water quality, disruption of the area by heavy equipment, the proximity to wetlands, pollution (soil, air, and water), and the clearing of publically-owned land. The definition of 'travel way' has not been made clear to residents. There is concern about the use of the access road by authorized vehicles and the potential for unauthorized use. After considering the

Pine Hill emergency access road, there are concerns about erosion, increased storm damage, and stormwater run-off. There are questions about the maintenance of the access road and what will happen to the gravel when it is plowed. Concerns were also expressed about habitat loss, the substantial impact upon local wildlife, increased invasive species, and loss of trees in the heavily wooded area. Residents expressed the view that the project would mar the landscape, decrease its use by the public, and diminish its value to the larger community. Suggestions were made for alternative emergency access routes. In conclusion, residents asked the Commission to continue to embrace the 2007 Open Space Plan and protect the land under its control between Maple Street and McGregor Drive. Ms. Dexter submitted a letter to the Commission that she had also submitted to the Planning Board. The Commission agreed to keep a list of interested parties to notify people when this topic is on the Agenda for future meetings.

- **FY 15 Budget Review** – Mr. Lesser provided details about the FY 15 Budget and its review and inclusion in the broader town budget approval processes.

Mr. McClintock moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Jacobsen seconded and it was voted to approve 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Browning Mitchell
Minutes Clerk

Documents Presented at the February 6, 2014 Public Meeting

All documents shall be kept in the Conservation Commission Office files.

Determinations**46 Forest Street - Proposal to perform soil testing**

- Application

36 Parks Drive - Proposal to perform soil testing

- Application

Certificate of Compliance**52 South Main Street**

- Email from David K. Kertzman, Esquire, of Kertzman & Weil, LLP, dated February 19, 2013
- Request for Certificate of Compliance, DEP #283-142

Public Hearings**Public Hearing #1**

- Sherborn Wetlands Regulations, amendments from Michael Lesser, dated

Discussions**Discussion #1 - Brush Hill Trail System Review for Improvements****Discussion #2 - review grant application for FSP outreach program**

- Massachusetts DCR Community Forest Stewardship Grant Application and Final Grant Report

Discussion #3 - Vote on expending funds for Agent to become certified at Invasive Species Manager

- Email from Massachusetts Audubon's Ecological Extension Service titled, "UMass Extensions Invasive Plant Management Certification 2014"

Discussion #4- MOU for Hopestill Reservation

- "Memorandum of Understanding between The Sherborn Conservation Commission and Don and Laurie Woodward of 24 Hollis Street, Sherborn" dated January 31, 2014

Warrant**Conservation Administrator/Agent Report****247 Washington Street - ch 61A sale**

- Letter from Laura Mann, dated January 17, 2014

- Plans titled, “Plan of Land, Sherborn and Holliston, MA” by GLM Engineering Consultants, dated July 9, 2012
- Plans titled, “Plan of Land, Sherborn and Holliston, MA” by GLM Engineering Consultants, dated July 3, 2013

Pulte Proposal for emergency access on Conservation Lands

- Plans titled, “Trail Exhibit” by Bholer Engineering, dated December 17, 2013

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