

# Conservation Commission



19 WASHINGTON STREET  
SHERBORN, MASSACHUSETTS 01770

January 15, 2015

Sherborn Town Hall

7:00 P.M.

Minutes of the Meeting

**Members Present:** Michael Lesser, Kelly McClintock, Jessica Pettit, Andrea Stiller, Bridget Graziano (Conservation Agent/ Administrator), Kaitlyn Kutzer (Administrative Assistant)

**Members Absent:** Alex Dowse, Steve Gaskin, Carol McGarry

**Guests:** Sean Killeen, John McAuliffe, Dan Wells

Mr. Lesser called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm.

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

## **Determinations**

### **44 Ivy Lane- Proposal to replace existing septic tank**

No one was present to represent the applicant. The Agent presented the proposal to replace the existing septic tank. She recommended a Positive 5 and Negative 3 Determination. The limit of work will entail disturbance within the 50'-100' buffer zone of a protected resource that is already altered as lawn during access and replacement. Mr. Lesser moved for a Positive 5 and Negative 3 Determination. Mr. McClintock seconded and it was voted to approve 4-0.

### **52 Hunting Lane- Proposal to install new well**

Dan Wells and Sean Killeen were present to represent the applicant. Mr. Wells presented a map indicating the 50' no-alteration zone as well as the 100' buffer zone which he used to note the scope of work. The Agent presented her site visit and findings in regards to the plans to perform soil testing and the installation of septic system. She recommended a Positive 2b, 5 and a Negative 3 Determination because the proposed work for the well is approximately within 50'-100' of an intermittent stream. Additionally, the work to perform soil testing to determine the existing groundwater table is within 50'-100' of BVW. Mr. Lesser moved for a Positive 2b, 5 and Negative 3 Determination. Ms. Pettit seconded and it was voted to approve 4-0. It is noted the

only work that may take place is the work in the approved plan titled, "Proposed Well Location" by Eco Tech Inc. dated January 4, 2015.

### **Public Hearings**

#### **Public Hearing #1 - (Continued from 7/17/14, 8/21/14, 9/4/14, 11/20/2014 meeting) 2-4 North Main Street SLB-15-02 for a proposal to construct age restricted units, grading and landscaping, and well water line**

Mr. Lesser opened the hearing at 7:42 PM. The Agent stated that the consultant hired for the peer review for the Commission, the Planning Board, and the Board of Health has prepared a report and at this time there has been no response from the Applicant's Engineer. Mr. Lesser moved to continue the hearing at 7:30 PM on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Ms. Stiller seconded and it was voted to approve 4-0.

### **Discussions**

#### **Discussion #1 - Request to remove trees on Town Land for solar panels on an abutting property**

John McAuliffe, an Ashland resident who abuts Barber Reservation, asked the Agent if it would be possible to remove 2-4 large trees on Sherborn Town Land (Barber Reservation) in order to reduce the shadows on a possible installation of solar panels on the roof of his home. He stated that he was told by the solar panel company that, in order to best benefit from the solar panels, the trees should be taken down. He also stated that he has not surveyed the land to determine exactly where the property line lies in relation to the trees. He stated that he wished to receive the Commission's input before hiring a surveyor. Mr. Lesser stated that a site visit would be necessary to make a decision and that Mr. McAuliffe could obtain a second opinion regarding the solar panel installation to determine if the tree removal is necessary given their distance from his house and that he could do further work on his own to better assess where his property line is with respect to the trees. Mr. McAuliffe agreed to do this. The Commission encouraged Mr. McAuliffe to return with the new information for further assessment of the request.

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

Mr. McClintock stated that the loggers have begun the tree removal and should complete the work within a few weeks. He proposed that because the funding originally obtained for the tree removal is not being used for its original purpose, be repurposed.

Mr. McClintock moved that (1) the Agent pursue an amendment to the DCR FY 2015 Barber Reservation Community Forest Stewardship Grant permitting the Commission to transfer funds previously budgeted for logging and chipping trees along the Reservation's transverse stone walls into to other activities needed for restoring field edges to a mow-able condition, including such activities as stump and brush removal, grading, and seeding; (2) that the Agent pursue an increase in the grant award to permit as much of these restoration activities as possible, provided that the increase does not require an increase in the grant matching share from the Conservation Trust Fund that exceeds \$3,000, so that the total commitment from the Trust Fund would not exceed \$4,500; and (3)

that the Agent be authorized to execute and submit to DCR such an application for amendment to the Grant award.

Mr. Lesser seconded and it was voted to approve 4-0.

### **Discussion #3 - Conservation Commission staffing and budget**

Mr. Lesser stated that he met with the Selectmen and discussed the budget.

### **Discussion #4 – Sassamon Trace**

The Commission discussed the costs of services from Beals and Thomas versus Woodard & Curran.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

#### **Minutes from 10/16**

Mr. McClintock moved to accept the minutes as edited. Ms. Stiller seconded and it was voted to approve 4-0

#### **Minutes from 12/4/14**

Mr. Lesser moved to accept the minutes as edited. Mr. McClintock seconded and it was voted to approve 3-0-1. Ms. Pettit abstained.

#### **Minutes from 12/18/14**

Mr. McClintock moved to accept the minutes as edited. Ms. Stiller seconded and it was voted to approve 3-0-1. Mr. Lesser abstained.

**Warrant:** signed by Michael Lesser

### **Conservation Administrator/Agent Report**

#### **• Administrative Approval**

1) 244 Western Avenue - Proposal to perform soil testing/percolation testing. The Agent completed a site visit and gave approval that the scope of work was outside of the jurisdiction of the Commission.

#### **•Conservation Land Maintenance**

##### **-Barber Reservation**

The Agent stated she met with George Fiske to discuss the concerns of the Commission regarding the barn renovation and the safety of the site during construction period. The Commission plans to perform a site visit to the Reservation Parking Lot and entry area to review potential designs for its improvement.

##### **-Hidden Meadow and Harrington Ridge Drainage**

Mr. Lesser reviewed that the Commission performed a site visit to find that it was unclear how to make changes in order to prevent street flooding. It was discussed that some additional work might help, such as visiting during significant rain event, some surveying and checking on the functioning of the existing drainage system.

##### **-Jameson Field area drainage and Ward Pond**

Mr. Lesser stated that some design work is being done by the Town.

#### **•Forestry-** covered in discussion

#### **•Barber Reservation Grassland Study-** postponed

Mr. McClintock moved to adjourn. Ms. Stiller seconded and it was voted to approve 4-0. The meeting was voted to adjourn at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kaitlyn Kutzer

Minutes Clerk

**Documents Presented at the January 15, 2015 Public Meeting**

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

**Determinations****44 Ivy Lane- Proposal to replace existing septic tank**

- Application

**52 Hunting Lane- Proposal to install new well**

- Application

**Public Hearings****Public Hearing #1 - 2-4 North Main Street SLB-15-02 for a proposal to construct age restricted units, grading and landscaping, and well water line**

- Peer review by Marie Esten of Loon Environmental titled, "Review of the Proposed Site Development on Abbey Road, 2 North Main St., Sherborn MA" (January 6, 2015)
- Peer Review by Gino Carlucci of the Sherborn Planning Board titled, "Abbey Road" (January 9, 2015)
- Review by Bridget Graziano, Sherborn Conservation Agent/Administrator titled, "2-4 North Main Street- Peace Abbey" (January 15, 2015)

**Discussions****Discussion #1-Request to remove trees on Town Land for solar panels on an abutting property**

- Copy "Regulations for the Use of Sherborn Conservation and Town Forest Land"
- Map created by Bridget Graziano, using ArcGIS, titled "Ashland Request"

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