



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 1/13/16

To: Members of Upton Conservation Commission
CC: Kelly McElreath, Town Clerk
From: Denise Smith, Administrative Assistant

Members Attending:

Chris Scott, Mike Penko, Scott Heim, Tom Jango and Marcella Stasa
Mary Overholt (Associate)

7:00 PM General Business/Active Items

MM – Motion to approve minutes from the 12/16/15 meeting and the 1/6/16 meeting – 2nd & approved.

Website – new website coming online at the end of January. Alan & Denise will attend training.

OSC – n/a

LSC – Motion to accept the Forest Stewardship Plan final report – 2nd & approved; next step is to begin an Outreach Plan; waiting for the habitat reports from the MA DFW and Mass Audubon.

Admin/Office & Finance

- Motion to sign expense voucher – 2nd & approved.
- Discussed moving files & plans that are stored upstairs in the library building storage area; need to find out if the BOH scanner is available for large-format plans.
- Follow-up on wetland issue at Anderson's property on Mendon St.
- Continue hearing for Hopedale Cardiology NOI (236 Milford St) as copy to DEP was not sent nor abutter notices; hearing continued to 1/27/16 at 7:40 pm.
- Discussed Agent's position; could possible increase to 15 – 20 hours per week.
- Prescribed Burn Workshops – Marcella & Mike will be attending.

7:15 PM NOI -- Westboro Rd

M. Allen & J. Lisk

- New house w/ wetlands crossing for driveway; linear feet of the bank is 25-26 feet; septic system to the rear of property; will mark 30' boundary w/ permanent markers.
- Reviewed Selby's comments (see agent report 11/19/15 – 12/16/15).
- Straw wattles to be used for erosion control w/ silt fence behind.
- Question about the ACE/rare species – this area is not w/in the area; Mark will submit a revision for the file indicating this.
- Working on replication plans; prefer a 1-to-1 replication for least disturbance; need to monitor for 2 years.
- Abutter asked if this will affect his property. There is thick vegetated buffer between the properties and wetland replication will minimize impacts from stormwater flows. Should be no impact/issue to neighbors.
- Continued hearing to 1/27/16 at 8:15 pm.

7:35 PM NOI -- 17 Hopkinton Rd

M. Allen

- Removing home that was destroyed by fire and replacing with a new single-family home.
- Area is previously disturbed w/ lawn to the water's edge.
- Will install bounds at 30' boundary line (4 bounds).
- Septic will be on the street side of the property (not toward pond).
- Reviewed Selby's comments (agent's report 11/19/15 – 12/16/15).
- Request to close the hearing; motion made to close – 2nd & approved.

Whitney Conservation Area/Parking Easement – DS will contact Greg Odone to see about moving forward w/ surveying the easement and installing permanent markers; still looking into guardrails.

Wood Turtle Study – Julie Lisk of Goddard Consulting gave a brief informal presentation on this study; 29 turtles found (7 male, 13 females and 9 juveniles); transmitters were put on 7 turtles; several turtles traveled quite a distance around town. Nesting areas located.

Beavers – investigated beaver activity at Mechanic St and Fowler St; suggestion was made to have Greg Trussell remove the dam but Tom Jango says it probably won't be necessary as it will most likely break apart by the spring. Tom is doing the trapping for BOH.

COC Requests

- 31 Christian Hill Rd – send letter as bounds need to be installed and silt fence removed.*
- 21 Pearl St – replication area has been completed but not highly successful (which is not unexpected given the conditions at this site) but the bounds need to be installed as indicated. Letter to be sent.

Upton Solar – pollinator mix language was included in the Planning Board's decision.

* Amended at meeting 1/27/16: bounds are installed need to install medallions.

9:15 PM Motion to Adjourn – 2nd & Approved

Minutes approved on: _____

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Document List:

- 1) Con Com Agenda & Action Checklist