

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

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concomm@uptonma.gov

1 Main St, Box 9
UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01568

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 3/11/2015

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

Members Attending:

Chris Scott, Mike Penko, Sandy Lajoie, Tom Jango, Scott Heim, Alan Miano and Marcella Stasa
Mary Overholt (Associate); Selby (Agent)

7:00 PM Agent's Report

- Per the submitted report dated 2/26/15 – 3/11/15.
- Draft of the Enforcement Order for 4 Taft St reviewed. Motion to approve the EO - 2nd & approved. Will talk w/ the DEP about the Army Corps "In-Lieu" fee program to see if they would allow. Will give the owner a courtesy call prior to mailing the EO.

7:25 PM Beavers at Southboro Rd

- Chris received ok from the Town Manager for Tom Jango to do the trapping of the remaining beavers. Tom will contact Blythe about the trapping permit from the BOH.
- Chris contact the BOH to let them know what has been spent so far and will issue the Emergency Order.

7:30 PM Land Use Regulations

- Suggestion to amend the regs to allow personal consumption of edible plants/berries/nuts etc...
- Motion to approve item # 6 to include "Edible fruits, berries, nuts, fiddleheads and mushrooms may be harvested for personal use." – 2nd & approved. Denise will update document and post on the website.

7:35 PM General/Active Items

Meeting Minutes – motion to accept and sign minutes from 2/25/15 – 2nd & approved.

Finances/Admin - payroll signed; expense voucher approved and signed; Denise will be meeting with Kenny Costa (Town Accountant) to discuss revolving accounts.

Rockwood Meadows – Received feedback from Attorney Greenwald on the CR and easement documents. We need to make sure that Hopkinton Planning Board has signed off on the parking area; also want to have something about foresting in the CR (previous version did have this). Provide comment to Mike and he will compile and forward to Steve Greenwald.

Whitney Conservation Area – letter has been drafted to send to the Town Manger regarding interpretation of the easement deed; discussion was held that we should make this letter generic to include other easements and not specific to this one area. There have been issues in other areas of town with infringement issues (Goss Pond, Howarth Glen). The letter is intended to get an opinion from town counsel specific to the easement deed for the Whitney CA. Motion made to send the letter to Blythe to be forwarded to town counsel – 2nd & approved.

Technology – Denise discussed with the Planning Board the possibility of purchasing smart boards; they are ok with investigating costs.

Heritage Park CR – discussed draft document which has been reviewed by town counsel and Mass Historical; Metacomet Land Trust will hold the CR. Submit comments to Chris and she will compile and respond.

Forestry – Rupert will get started once the snow has melted a bit; suggestion has been made to start a management plan for the Stefans land or Peppercorn Hill.

OSC – Bill Taylor is drafting a letter in response to discussion with a Hopkinton resident about extending Crockett Rd over the conservation land; while it is unlikely to be supported the committee will remain neutral and will consider a proposal should it be presented. Will suggest in the letter that the Commission would possibly be in favor of a donation of the land for tax credit.

LSC – contacted Blythe that the committee walked the town property that runs behind Hartford Ave N up to Warren St and alerted her to the fact that some ramps and other structures have been constructed (most likely for mountain bike jumps) and have concerns about someone getting hurt. The Con Com was given “control” of this land by 2/3 vote in a 1969 Town Meeting. Marcella will reach out to Blythe to discuss the town meeting vote regarding this matter as she may be unaware that the property appears to be a conservation area, rather than generic town owned land. LSC will GPS trails and structures on the property this spring.

8:50 PM Motion to Adjourn – 2nd & Approved

Minutes approved on: _____

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