

\*\*\*\*\* D R A F T \*\*\*\*\*

Ashby Conservation Commission  
Minutes for the Meeting of November 16, 2011

Meeting opened at 7:30 with Cathy Kristofferson, Bob Leary and Roberta Flashman in attendance. Minutes of the meeting of November 2, 2011 were corrected to show Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> instead of Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Treasurer's Report:** nothing to report.

**Correspondence:**

Roberta received an email from Stephen Hague withdrawing his request to pursue a barn expansion within the wetland buffer zone.

89 Jewett Hill Rd – an "as built" plan was received

Request for Determination from Highway Dept, Jewett Hill Rd, MRPC grant. 3 fire ponds and one culverted stream – grind and repave roadway surface with siltation fencing to protect resource areas.

**Old Business:**

Forest Legacy. Projects are proceeding. The project presented to the Selectmen was sign. The final hold up is the State contract for dispersing funds through the town.

State Ethics on line training – Cathy and Roberta have completed the training. Bob will complete it before the next meeting.

Tax taking properties – one on Ashby State Rd – just did a cutting of 31 acres. Current owner is Shammas. Another property at the end of Harris Rd.

Search for Land Agent has been completed. An offer has been made.

**New Business:**

Advertising of Highway Dept projects – didn't get the advertising in place for tonight. Jennifer Collins has now placed the advertising for Friday, Nov 18<sup>th</sup>. Will issue the Determination at the Dec 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Issue negative Determination on Marie Gulliford property on Bernhardt Rd – Marie submitted the copy of the legal notice from the Sentinel and Enterprise.

Marie Gulliford wanted to know if there was an Eagle Scout project available. Suggested that he could manage a final clean up of Blood Hill.

Ashby Land Trust is looking for a copy of the Wiita Conservation Area Management Plan. Pointed them to the Town Website.

Ashby Land Trust also inquired about the status of two triangles cut out of Witta Property house lot. These are not part of the house lot owned by Alan Pease. They are owned by the Town.

Bruce Adams – requesting a signature on the building permit for Richardson Rd property. Bob signed it based on the site visit of 11/12/11.

Need to schedule the Packard property monitoring. Tentative November 27<sup>th</sup> date. Weather dependant.

**Hearings:** none

**Hearings Scheduled:** none

**Site Visits Conducted:**

11/10/11 – Allen Rd – Pomerleau. Conducted by Roberta

Objective was to check the progress of the project.

Findings: siltation running down the road to the wetland. Stream is clear and running with siltation barriers working. Construction is under way. There is no apron between the driveway and the road.

11/6/11 – 89 Jewett Hill Rd – Bob, Roberta met with Kathy Daigneault on site to review requirements for obtaining COC.

- Need to remove siltation barriers
- Need to stabilize both sides of the retaining walls
- Pad at street end of driveway

Site visits on November 12, 2011

Jewett Hill Rd

Objective was to check on work done to comply with OOC for issuance of Certificate of Compliance.

Bob, Roberta and Cathy viewed the site.

The siltation fencing had been removed. The top of the system's disturbed area was loamed and seeded and covered with thin mulch of straw. The driveway was graded. The grading removed the stones that had been placed at the foot of the retention wall surrounding the system. However, the grading of the driveway provided no protection from erosion caused by rain, which had occurred after the grading. Siltation was heading toward the road.

The members on site agreed that something more had to be done to protect the wetland, both directly below the driveway and down the road from the property – into which water from the driveway flows.

1. Create a berm along the side of the driveway closest to the wetland.
2. create a rip rap pad at the end of the driveway, where it meets the road, to prevent any siltation from the driveway entering the road's drainage, which empties into the wetland.

Paving the driveway would be a change to the NOI application and would require submission of the changes for approval.

Allen Rd – Dillon

Objective: check on whether there is a protectable wetland that might impede progress on increasing the size of the current septic system and increasing the size of the house.

Roberta, Cathy and Bob viewed the site.

Findings: It is unclear whether or not the wetland across the field is connected to the water draining across the property. The field has significant moisture and may drain onto the property as well as into the wetland near the cemetery.

There are two "streams" that come across the property and join. After their junction, the stream proceeds through a stonewall and into a large wetland which then empties into a stream that proceeds south, parallel to Main St., eventually emptying into a much larger wetland.

So, the issue at hand is whether the streams are protectable intermittent streams that connect one wetland to another. The Commission does not feel that they hold the competence or evidence to make a decision about the source of the streams. The streams do clearly flow into a protectable wetland that is then connected to other wetlands.

There had been excavation in the stream areas. The Commission asked the owner to stop this activity, as it was not clear that it would be allowed if the areas was declared protectable.

Richardson Rd Bruce Adams

Objective: Ascertain that a proposed building site would be more that 100 ft from wetlands and 200 ft from perennial streams.

Roberta, Cathy and Bob conducted a site visit.

Findings: After walking back to the stream, it was fairly clear that the stream, which appears on the USGS maps as perennial, is a perennial stream. There was a large former beaver dam and pond on the stream. The stream was more than 200 ft back from the closest proposed area of disturbance on the building site.

Bob Leary signed the septic system plans so that they could be presented to the BOH.

South Rd.

Objective: view a site of disturbance that might constitute a wetland violation and make a decision about whether to issue an enforcement order.

Bob and Cathy viewed the site with Roberta, the owner of the property.

Findings: A contractor had been clearing brush/bramble from the property with a brush hog mounted on a tractor. The contractor went too close to the stream and became mired in mud. This left deep ruts near the stream, which had their vegetation destroyed and were collecting surface water. There did not appear to be any siltation entering the stream (Willard Brook tributary) from the site. Water is very close to the surface in many areas of the property and water drains across the property from catch basins along South Rd.

Discussion about what to do now: siltation fencing might pond the water, which might be potentially more damaging than the current flow of water; raking and seeding the area could only be done by hand and would introduce non-wetland plants into a wetland area; siltation fencing would block the passage of wetland amphibians and mammals seeking the river water.

Bob and Cathy suggested that perhaps the best solution would be to do nothing at this point in time, allowing the wetlands to re-grow on their own from the seeds that are already in place.

**Site Visits Needed:** none

Meeting was adjourned at 9:11pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roberta Flashman