

Ashby Conservation Commission

Minutes for the Meeting of March 16, 2011

Meeting was opened in the Land Use Room at 7:30 with Bob, Tim, Roberta and Cathy in attendance.

Minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2011 were reviewed and accepted unanimously as written.

Treasurer's Report: nothing to report

Correspondence:

Approval for the Packard Cutting Plan received from Jack Jackson, Dept of Forestry regional forester.

Notice of requested hearing before the ZBA for NOI received from Hannigan Engineering. This is for review of a septic replacement and construction plan at 102 Deer Bay Road. The Commission suggested to Nate Mahonen of Hannigan that he wait for ZBA decision and tentatively scheduled the hearing for April 20, 2011.

Received clarification from DEP (Maryanne DiPinto) regarding the need for 401 Water Quality Certification application for the project at 873 Main Street, DLR Realty, DEP#93-325. The certification needs to be completed before project can begin. The certification process does not hold up our our hearing and permitting process. The Commission should include evidence of the certification as a condition on their OOC for start of activity. The notice was also mailed to the applicant. The Enforcement Order remains in effect.

The Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions and the Association of Massachusetts Wetland Scientists notice of combined Social Networking Reception. Worcester – April 25th 2011.

NOI from Ollie Tervo, 29 Laurelwood Drive, replacement septic system for house.. Whitman and Bingham are the engineers. Roberta and Cathy took copies to review. Scheduled the hearing for April 6 @ 8:00. Will need to schedule a site visit or continue hearing until ground is visible.

Received a response to inquiries made during the MACC Conference from LEC. Information about Tom Peragallo and his ability to do a peer review or wetland delineation, should we need it on the 873 Main St project.

Mailing from Northeast Land & Water, LLC offering services for peer review.

Old Business:

Follow-up on the MACC annual Conference attended on 3-5-11. Commissioners attended workshops on River crossings, open meetings, limited projects and takings and other issues. Also collected materials on plant nurseries, mulch siltation barriers and other. One insight gained was that the consequence of wildlife habitat destruction on one property might have a larger impact on wildlife destruction than originally thought – need to take a worst case scenario - what if the same amount of destruction was done on all the surrounding properties.

COC for 584 Main Street, Mike Bussell, continues to be withheld pending removal of the silt fence.

Report from joint meeting of BOS and FinCom (3-15-11) on the preparation of the FY12 Town Budget and our submitted requests. School is level funding from last year. As a result, the Cons Comm budget is intact.

Need a review of the plans for a septic replacement at 107 Hosmer Road, Pitre owner. George Sullivan of Ross Assoc submitted these plans looking for a quick review. Snow cover precludes a site visit at this time. Applicant was so informed. Assessor maps and geo- maps don't match well so the Commission is unable to determine, without a site visit, whether the project is outside the buffer zones of wetland across the street and behind the house.

Forest Legacy updates. The MOA has been given to the Ashby Land Trust for signature, but there was not a quorum at their last meeting, so they couldn't vote on it or sign it. It is possible for the signing to occur at their annual meeting.

A fact sheet on the "woolly adelgid" is in progress. Plan to make it available to citizens by posting and leaving copies at the Town Hall. This invasive insect has been found in New Ipswich, NH.

OOC for Lynda Laakso property 864 South Road was issued. Filed electronically during the meeting. The Enforcement Order is still in effect. Neal Gorman is out of town tonight and did not attend the meeting. Lynda Laakso also did not attend the meeting.

Roberta will check with contractor in Townsend about the progress of signage for Conservation Properties.

Cathy, Tim and Roberta attended a meeting with the Blood Hill Management Committee and possible buyer of the Spring Hill property on March 4th to talk about possibilities of the property being used as a cross-country ski area for a club as well as for the general public. Two big issues for them to consider and find answers for are 1) their need a source of water for snowmaking, and 2) how to limit the use of their trails so that snowmobiles and ATV's don't damage them. There was also discussion about whether or not the Blood Hill Management Committee would allow them to cut trails on the Wiita Conservation area lands. The trails would have to be 3 meters wide and would have to be able to accommodate grooming equipment. The consensus was that if they could find answers to the above 2 questions, permission would probably be granted for trails, with conditions when trails were near wetlands because a cross-country area was viewed as a best possible outcome for the property.

New Business:

Mr. Donnelly appeared to request that the hearing still be delayed because the process of going through the ZBA for a decision is taking a bit longer than expected.

Hearings:

8:30: NOI for project by Ross Associates for 873 Main Street, DLR Realty. Closed at 9:41pm.

Hearings Scheduled:

April 20, 2011, 8:00 PM, Continuation of hearing from 1-5-2001: NOI for Ashby Res. Dam maintenance/repair from Fitchburg Water Dept. Denis Meunier. (Site visit held on 12-11-10) DEP # 93-321.

April 20, 2011 8:30 pm Tentative Hearing scheduled for NOI for 102 Deer Bay Road for septic replacement and home reconstruction/re-construction. Awaiting word from ZBA hearing scheduled for April 12, 2011.

Site Visits:

Site Visits Needed:

Possibly for 102 Deer Bay Road, septic replacement, demo and reconstruction of building.

107 Hosmer Road.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Flashman