

Ashby Conservation Commission

Minutes for the Meeting of April 18, 2012

Meeting opened at 7:30 with Cathy Kristofferson, Bob Leary, and Tim Bauman and Roberta Flashman in attendance.

Minutes of the meeting of April 4, 2012 were reviewed and corrected and accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: ESRI maintenance contract paid - \$400. \$500 still in budget.

Correspondence:

E-mail from Krishnabai requesting that her plans for an addition be put on hold.

Notice of NW Nashua River Watershed ConCom Breakfast, 4-27-12, 8:00 AM. Topic is Forestry and Land Management.

E-mail from MACC announcing that the handouts and presentations for workshops offered at MACC's Annual Conference on March 3, 2012 are now available at http://maccweb.org/edu_aec.html

Old Business:

Forest Legacy up-date. The money from the Forest Legacy Program for Track 6 is sitting in the Ashby account – will be put on the warrant for April 26th. Roberta had to sign one last piece of paper certifying that the Commission did vote to approve the CR on Track 6. Cathy will try to schedule an event for the presentation of the check to the Moultons.

Still trying to create a Kids walk to the pond as a combined ConsCom and Friends of the Ashby Library program. The fire pond at the cemetery might be the best choice as it is accessible and has lots of amphibians in it right now. The pond behind the library is less suitable as there is too much tall grass to walk through. The pond at the school doesn't have much wildlife. It might be best to make the choice on the day of the hike. A 2nd hike, which could talk about the nesting birds, might either go to the cemetery and to South Rd Fields. June 2nd was suggested as a tentative date – 10 – 1. Cathy will put together a presentation that could be shown prior to starting the walk.

Mailed letter of approval for a request from Bob LaFosse (978-297-0627) to do metal detecting on the South Road Fields with attached conditions. Tim talked with Eino Perna and only heard positive remarks.

Unified Permitting proposal. There were a number of requests for meetings in the middle of the day to discuss the proposal. Some of the board members are opposed to mandatory standing meetings rather than meetings when necessary, ala ZBA. So, the whole proposal is on hold at this point.

The chair contacted the Ashby Tree Warden to get an assist with the wetland violation behind the library. Large ash trees have been recently cut down and the brush thrown on the edge of the real pond. Question if the trees cut are on the pond side of a rock wall which could be the property bound for town owned land. Received E-mail response. Brush is still in the pond as of today. Tim will contact Jack Jackson to see if he can determine bounds and best estimated value of the cut trees.

The chair composed a reminder letter to Murray, Piper Road, of the promised work to stabilize the excavated areas. It will be mailed tomorrow.

New Business:

Cathy will contact Voss signs to see if we can get the order printed and invoiced for boundary signs. Was put on hold in January 2011.

Emily Norton gave Cathy a letter to all residents for help in eliminating off-road-vehicles on Town and State conservation land. Townsend mailed this to all residents. Some discussion of whether a

similar approach would work in Ashby. Will check the budget after purchasing the signs and see if there is enough for a mailing. Estimated cost of a mailing is approximately \$120.

Hearings: None

Hearings Scheduled: None

Site Visits:

4-4-12, Tim visited the retention pools behind the Library and observe where trees had been cut down and slash dumped in the wetland area.

Site Visits Needed:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roberta Flashman