

Ashby Conservation Commission
Minutes for the Meeting of May 1, 2019

The meeting was opened at 7:30pm with Cathy Kristofferson, Tim Bauman, Bob Leary and Roberta Flashman in attendance.

The Minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2019 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: \$7 for certified mail reimbursement to Tim. Alan Pease came to the Commission to see if there was any money left from the Small Communities Grant that might be able to pay for NRPZ training done by Heidi Ricci - \$800. Cathy will email Julie Costello, Town Accountant, to find out what's left of the grant. Check received for NOI for \$262.50 for Jamison VanDyke development on Allen Rd. Cathy received a copy of wire transfer to K-P Law for purchase of the Harris Rd property. She gave this copy to Roberta to keep with the rest of the records for the property purchase.

Correspondence:

- 4/18 - email about culvert assessment training from NRWA
- 4/18 - emails with Michael Downey, Service Forester, regarding 603 Fitchburg State Rd. – Madigan property. Cathy requested a site visit, but then it was cancelled. The service forester did locate two potential vernal pools. Cathy met with Steve Phaneuf and marked the 2 vernal pools for protection from the equipment currently on the property and any planned building.
- 4/20 - From DCR: Cutting Plan Final Report for Parlee Farms Revocable Trust. Forester is Valcourt.
- 4/20 - From DRC: approved Cutting Plan for Mountain Laurel Ashby LLC, Fitchburg State Rd. Forester is Valcourt. This is the old Madigan property.
- 4/23 - email from Service Forester to cancel site visit.
- 4/23 - RDA emailed for 369 Davis Rd - Roberta will write this for issuance on the 15th of May.
- 4/23 - emails with Rebecca Walsh/Ashby Land Trust about two proposals, request to be on agenda.
- 4/26 - emails with Zenon Lis re 369 Davis Rd. RDA advertised for 5/15.
- 4/28 - Call from Mike McCallum regarding South Road Fields and Harris Rd: invited to meeting
- 4/29 – mail from Fitchburg Conservation Agent: plans for 0 Northfield Road properties
- 5/1 - email from Fieldstone Consultants to DEP – some further negotiations on the appeal for 4 Greenville Road projects.

Old Business:

- Harris Road LAND Grant project status. Roberta will be meeting with Steve Beuregard, Highway Dept Supt, on Thursday, May 2, 2019 @ 10:00am to find an optimum location for a parking lot for 2 or 3 cars at the Buczinsky property. Roberta has been working to find members to join a management committee for the property and has been writing a management plan. Cathy & Roberta met on Monday, April 29, with Julie Costello – discussed possible account for the Commission to handle monies received/expended for properties under the Commission's control/responsibility.
- Report back on NRPZ presentation to the Planning Board. Members did not find any revelations about the zoning and the requirements for development with that type of zoning in place. Ashby's biggest problem right now is the amount of land still open for development on ANR lots. Heidi Ricci sent an

invoice for \$800 for the presentation. Alan Pease appeared before the Commission requesting permission to use any remaining funds received under the Small Communities Grant of last spring to be used to pay for this bill.

New Business:

- 8pm - Rebecca Walsh, Ashby Land Trust(ALT) to discuss two proposals. Others from the land trust attended: Doug Leab, Vicki Mickola, Claire & John Lavin, Cedwyn Morgan and Mike McCallum. Rebecca presented 2 proposals for The South Road Field: one for management of invasives and the other for inclusion of the field in a larger walking route through the center of town.
Proposal for Removal of Invasives. ALT would like to use this project as an education and outreach action for Ashby. The proposal suggests that sections of the field be defined and demarcated for different approaches to invasives management. The first step for these areas is assessment of type and extent of invasives. Then ALT would review potential removal approaches dependent upon the area's proximity to wetlands and other resources. Rebecca will forward the plan to the Commission electronically with links to some of the articles and resources she has used in researching this project.
Town Center Walking. ALT would like to design and clear/build a walking path for people who do not want a deep woods experience. The commission responded with an invitation to the ALT subcommittee to find a path and set up a site visit to show the commission the proposed path.
- Email from Janet Morrison stating that she is proceeding with the State LAND grant for the Gus Crocker lands. There should be no cost to the Town. She will be presenting to project to the Selectmen at their next meeting, May 15, 2019.
- Tim signed the building permit for Andy Krook for a property on Bennett Rd.
- Roberta signed the building permit for 352 Jewett Hill Rd, Kenneth & Jennifer Vettrus for an in-ground swimming pool.
- 0 Allen Rd, Graz Engineering, NSFH – Roberta will write a letter to the Town Clerk stating her relationship to the project as a distant abutter with no conflict of interest. The hearing is scheduled for May 15, 2019.

Hearings:

- None

Hearings Scheduled:

- 5/15 - 0 Allen Rd, Graz Engineering, NSFH

Site Visits:

- 4/23 - 0 Telephone Rd and Richardson Rd - New Single Family Home. Roberta, Cathy and Bob met on-site with Bruce Adams to view plans and area for location of wetlands. There is a stream on the property more than 200 ft from the location of the proposed septic system and house. Roberta signed the plans and building permit.
- 4/23 – Old Northfield Rd. The Commission was told of clearing that was taking place on old Northfield Rd. Almost all of the property is located just over the town line, in Fitchburg. The homes (4?) will have driveways that cross into Ashby to access Old Northfield Rd. Wetlands on the property had been marked. There are 2 intermittent streams that cross Old Northfield Rd and enter the property. Roberta contacted the Fitchburg Cons Comm agent, Mike O'Hara, and asked for a copy of the plan for the property. No paperwork for either an NOI or RDA has yet been submitted. Fitchburg Cons Comm

meets the last Tuesday of the month – that would be 4/30/19, but with nothing yet submitted, it would not have time for advertising for that meeting.

- 4/23 - 10:30am, 603 Fitchburg State Road, vernal pools, Cathy met with Steve Phaenuf and marked the pools. She will be submitted the documentation for certification of the larger pool. Eggs had hatched in the smaller pool, making it more difficult to document the use of the pools by vernal pool species. She will plan to certify the pool next year.
- 4/29/19 – Roberta and Cathy met with the town accountant, Julie, to talk about setting up a Conservation Trust Fund that could be used to hold and distribute monies for the management and licensing of community garden plots on the Buczinsky property.

Site Visits needed:

- End of Harris Rd, Wayne Hardy, dam condition

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Flashman