

**Conservation Commission Meeting
February 28, 2007
Town Room, Amherst Town Hall**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mr. Gerber at 7:02 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members: John Gerber, Harvey Allen, Liv Baker, Dan Kaplan (arrived at 7:12) Ellie Manire-Gatti, Nicki Robb, Otto Stein

Staff: David Ziomek, Stephanie Ciccarello, Libby Lass

Presenters: Charles Dauchy, Bill Cannon

CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S ACTION

Approve Minutes

VOTED unanimously (7-0) to approve the Conservation Commission minutes of January 10, 2007.

Smith Property – Right of First Refusal

VOTED unanimously (7-0) to recommend to the Select Board that its right of first refusal not be exercised for the property identified as 1011 Bay Road on Assessors Map 30A, Parcel 8.

PERMITS/CERTIFICATES

Public Hearing – NOI Haskins View, L.L.C., East Leverett Road (NOI 06-1042)

- Open the public hearing at 7:48 p.m.
- Continued the public hearing until 7:30 p.m. on March 28, 2007.

Public Hearing – NOI Levi-Nielsen Company, South East Street (NOI 05-1009)

- Opened the public hearing at 7:49 p.m.
- Continued the public hearing until 8:00 p.m. on April 11, 2007.

Public Hearing – NOI Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, Norwottuck Rail Trail (NOI 06-1062)

- Opened the public hearing at 7:50 p.m.
- Continued the public hearing until 7:30 p.m. on March 14, 2007.

Public Hearing – RFD Harvey Allen, 34 Baker Street (RFD 07-1068)

- Opened the public hearing at 7:51 p.m.
- Continued the public hearing until 7:45 p.m. on March 28, 2007.

Public Hearing – NOI Roger & Iona Cherewatti, 575 North East Street (NOI 07-1071)

- Opened the public hearing at 7:55 p.m.
Bill Cannon, Landscape Architect and Charles Dauchy, Wetlands Consultant, presented on behalf of the Cherewattis.

VOTED unanimously (7-0) to close the public hearing at 8:46 p.m. and to issue an Order of Conditions pending adherence to the following special conditions:

- a. The Wetlands Administrator shall be notified upon installation of the silt fence prior to construction activities.

- b. Only native vegetation may be used for additional landscaping (excluding the lawn seed mix)
- c. Permanent markers shall be installed at the 30 foot buffer boundary except in areas which are currently mown for agricultural purposes
- d. Live trees with a minimum dbh of six inches shall be maintained within 60 feet from the delineated wetland edge
- e. Paving within the jurisdictional buffer zone of the parking court shall be reduced to the maximum extent possible
- f. Only environmentally friendly snowmelt material, such as magnesium chloride, may be used on paved surfaces
- g. Snow removal shall not be directed to or deposited in wetland resource areas
- h. Pool water shall remain untreated for 48 hours prior to being discharged and may not empty directly into wetland resource areas

Certificate of Compliance: Donald Abel – Greenleaves Drive

VOTED unanimously (7-0) to issue a certificate of compliance to Donald Abel for Greenleaves Drive.

Certificate of Compliance: Megin Ziomek – 47 Emily Lane

VOTED unanimously (7-0) to issue a partial certificate of compliance to Megin Ziomek for 47 Emily Lane.

Certificate of Compliance: Mike Zlogar – 733 Station Road

VOTED unanimously (7-0) to issue a certificate of compliance to Mike Zlogar for 733 Station Road.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Office Reorganization

David Ziomek gave a brief update of the reorganization of the Conservation Department. The work cubicles are in place, including an "extra" intern's desk that is available for Commission members to use to review files when they are in the office. The wetland files are now in file cabinets in the new file room and work continues on reviewing and filing of other administrative documents.

Intern - Martha Powers

Mr. Ziomek reported to the Commission that we now have an intern, Martha Powers, who will be working on developing and administering a survey of Amherst farms. It is anticipated that the survey will be ready to go out the week of March 5th. Martha is currently working on setting up a database for the survey data and in setting up a "Farming Forum" for April 10, 2007. Martha will also be helping to update the Town's website to include a section celebrating farming in Amherst.

Agricultural Commission

The Ag Commission has been quite active and has been meeting with the Zoning Subcommittee. Ruth Hazzard, Chair of the Ag Commission, has been working with Jonathan Tucker on a possible zoning article for the Annual Town Meeting.

Land Management Presentations

The presentations by Doug Hutcheson and David McKinnon regarding land management have been moved to March 28, 2007.

New Trail Grant

Mr. Ziomek indicated that the Hitchcock Center for the Environment has a new trail grant (2 – 2½ K) from Kodak that is a matching grant. Plans are to extend the trail from Larch Hill westerly to Bramble Hill to a viewing platform.

DCR Grant

The supporting material for the DCR Grant for Larch Hill & Trails Improvement Project has been submitted for reimbursement.

Kimball House (575 North East Street)

Mr. Ziomek was informed by Senator Rosenberg that the bill to remove land from APR has passed the House & the Senate and is now on the Governor's desk for signature (he has 10 days to sign).

CPC

Many of the Commissioners have been attending CPC meetings and are members of various working groups. There will be a public meeting on March 29, 2007 to present the statement of goals of these working groups. Mr. Ziomek indicated that removing Chapter 61/A land from open space maps will be addressed in the Master Plan.

CPAC

Mr. Ziomek indicated that potential sellers have come forward with property that he would like to include or possibly have replace other parcels (North Amherst farm block & Lawrence Swamp) that are being proposed to CPAC for funding. The Commission indicated that they support his decisions.

MISCELLANEOUS

Energy Task Force

Stephanie Ciccarello, gave a brief description of the New England Wind Fund and urged members of the public and the Conservation Commission to participate in this effort. If 90 households sign up, the Town would receive \$28,000 in matching funds for renewable energy projects in Amherst from the Massachusetts Technology.

MAAC Handbook

Summary of Chapter 1 by Liv Baker. Otto Stein will review Chapter 2 and give summary to the Commission on April 11, 2007.

Beaver Management Procedures

Discussion scheduled for March 14, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED unanimously to adjourn at 9:19 p.m.