

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mr. Gerber at 7:04 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members: Gerber, Robb, Allen, Kaplan, Manire-Gatti, Stein (Baker absent)

Staff: Ciccarello, Lass

Public: Pete Westover, Tom Baker, Chris Wall

CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S ACTION

Approve Minutes

VOTED Allen, Kaplan, Manire-Gatti, voted "Aye", Gerber, Robb and Stein abstained to approve the Conservation Commission minutes of May 9, 2007.

Beaver Management – Memorandum of Understanding

No action.

Town Meeting Warrant Articles - Discussion

No action.

PERMITS/CERTIFICATES

Public Hearing: Request for Determination – RFD 07-1080 – Town of Amherst Conservation Department, 146 Mill Lane

Bridge replacement in the riverfront resource area located along the Emily Dickinson Trail off 146 Mill Lane (Map 17C, parcel 14).

- Opened the public hearing at 7:21 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

VOTED unanimously (6-0) close the public hearing and to issue a negative determination for the work.

Public Hearing: Request for Determination RFD 07-1079 – Town of Amherst Conservation Department, Mill Lane

Bridge replacement in the riverfront resource area located along the Emily Dickinson Trail off Mill Lane (Map 17B, parcel 1).

- Opened the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 7:26 p.m. on.

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to close the public hearing and to issue a negative determination for the work.

Public Hearing: Notice of Intent – NOI 06-1062 – Richard Brazeau for the Department of Conservation and Recreation (cont'd from 11/08/06)

Repair of the existing Rail Trail embankment as well as permanent water level reduction in a land under water body resource area on the Norwottuck Rail Trail off Station Road (Map 16B, parcel 5).

- Opened the public hearing at 7:26 p.m.

Stephanie Ciccarello indicated that the DCR is still waiting for written confirmation from Natural Heritage that they can proceed with the work. The Town cannot issue an emergency certificate until DCR has this confirmation.

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to continue the public hearing to July 11, 2007 at 7:40 p.m.

Public Hearing: Request for Determination – RFD 07-1078 – Gordon Hall, Thrush Lane

Tree and brush clearing and planting of black walnuts in the buffer zone of bordering vegetated wetlands off Old Farm Road (Map 18C, parcel 63).

- Opened the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 8:27 p.m. on.

Pete Westover presented for the applicant, Gordon Hall, providing maps and photographs of the area to be cleared – approximately 10 ½ acres. The plantation will have approximately 100 trees/acre. The clearing will result in scalping the land, so a cover crop will need to be planted. It is anticipated that the clearing will be done in August & September and trees planted in the Spring. Several residents were in attendance and were hopeful that the pine trees (location?) can be cut down, as they are hazardous. The members of the Commission questioned the limit of work in the buffer zone and erosion control.

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to close the public hearing and to approve the plan with the following conditions:

1. Approve the wetland delineation as depicted.
2. Applicant shall submit a separate Notice of Intent for the work proposed in the upland area island adjacent to Crossbrook.
3. Permanent markers shall be installed along the 15' limit of work/no disturb boundary.
4. The boundary cutting shall be supervised by a qualified environmental scientist
5. Cover crop seeded by September 15 of the year the cutting is done.
6. The limit of work – 15' from the wetland boundary - shall have permanent markers installed
7. A cutting plan within 15' of the wetland boundary shall be submitted to the Conservation Commission for approval or rejection for the purpose of removing invasive species
8. Erosion control proposed by the applicant shall be approved by the Wetlands Administrator
9. Area shall be stabilized immediately upon work completion.

Request for Determination – RFD 07-1077 – Tom Baker, 137 Shutesbury Road

Placement of a garden shed in the buffer zone of bordering vegetated wetlands located at 137 Shutesbury Road (Map 9B, parcel 62).

- Opened the public hearing at 8:28 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 8:32 p.m.

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to close the public hearing and to issue a negative determination for the work.

Request for Determination – RFD 07-1081 – Ruth Wade, 160 Shays Street

Placement of a gazebo in the buffer zone of a pond and intermittent stream located at 160 Shays Street (Map 20A, parcel 117).

- Opened the public hearing at 8:32 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 8:37 p.m. on.

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to close the public hearing and to issue a negative determination for the work.

Public Hearing – NOI 07-1073: Paul Cole, West Street (cont'd from 3/28/07)

Paul Cole for construction of an eight lot cluster subdivision in the buffer zone of bordering vegetated wetlands located on West Street (Map 25B, parcel 29).

- Opened the public hearing at 8:37 p.m.

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to continue the public hearing to June 13, 2007 at 7:40 p.m.

National Yiddish Book Center Addition

Chris Wall, Berkshire Design Group presented the changes that they are requesting to make for the National Yiddish Book Center addition asking the Commission if an amended order of conditions is required.

VOTED Allen, Kaplan, Manire-Gatti and Stein voted “Aye”, Gerber voted “No”, Robb recused herself to accept the changes with a note and an “as built” plan to be added to the file.

MISCELLANEOUS

Comments from the Chair

John Gerber relayed a message from Director, Dave Ziomek, that he will recommend that the APR warrant articles on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant be referred back to the Commission.

John also noted that the Commission needs to think seriously about who will take over the position of chair, as he is stepping down at the end of June.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to adjourn the open meeting at 8:54 p.m.