

**Conservation Commission Meeting  
September 12, 2018  
First Floor Mtg Rm, Amherst Town Hall**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Mr. Brooks at 7:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Present: Brooks, Allen, Clark, Butler, Fair

Staff: Willson

**CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS**

Willson stated that two of our agenda items will be continued to our next meeting. Both applicants for the SE St. project and the TOA KC Trail Bridge application have asked to continue. She said the Conservation Dept. is changing the bridge design a bit and just hasn't had time to get to the site with the Town Engineer to confirm the changes. They also need to get the new design to NHESP once it's finalized. Clark asked if Conservation staff ever moved ahead with the Amethyst Brook bridge. Willson said no, we're still looking for telephone poles. Clark suggested Mann Lumber in Athol for large, used timbers. Willson stated the Epstein property purchase will hopefully happen this Friday.

Willson shared a delineation report done for 188 Sunderland Rd. She stated we talked about this property before and had asked the owner to delineate the wetlands because it appeared his tenant was encroaching on the wetlands. The report shows that the parking pad is not in the wetland but is within the buffer zone. Willson asked the Commission their thoughts and recommendations of how to move forward. Commission decided to take the report into consideration and discuss at our next meeting. Clark stated Whirlwind Landscaping has moved out.

Willson stated there are monitoring reports for the Cole subdivision on West St., University Dr. project, and Pulpit Hill solar in the Commission's packets.

**MINUTES**

**Review minutes of 5-9-18 & 5-23-18.**

**Butler moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to approve the minutes of 5-9-18.**

**Clark moved and Butler seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-1, Brooks abstained) to approve the minutes of 5-23-18.**

**PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS**

**7:10 PM Conservation Land Management**

**Use of Cons Land Application – Jon Woodruff/UMASS for sediment sampling at Puffer's Pond.**

Willson stated Mr. Woodruff is not coming in, he made the same request last year which was granted. Willson stated he is the professor we are working with on the Puffers's Pond bathymetry study. He had offered his students to collect the sediment samples needed for the dredging, but we're not ready to collect those samples. Woodruff said he students would like to come to a Commission meeting at some point to present both the bathymetry results and the sediment sampling.

**Clark moved and Butler seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0)** to approve the use of conservation land application.

**7:20 PM Request for Determination** – David & Sharon Rogalski for landscaping and retaining wall replacement within buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands at 286 W Pomeroy Ln (Map 19C, Parcel 7).

David & Sharon Rogalski, owners, presented their project. They would like to replace a wooden retaining wall with a rock wall at the top of their driveway, fill in the area in front of the wall with loam and plantings. At the bottom of the driveway they would like to build a rock garden, randomly placed boulders with plantings around the rocks. Erosion control will be used at the limit of work for both work areas. Butler asked how far the work areas are from the wetland. Brooks said about 50' each according to the map. Using wattles, filter tubes for erosion control.

**Butler moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0)** to issue a Negative Determination #3 for work within the buffer zone that is determined to not impact that resource area.

**7:30pm Notice of Intent (cont'd from 8/22 mtg)** - Amir Mikhchi for construction of an apartment building and associated driveway, parking, stormwater drainage, utilities, and landscaping within a resource area at 133-143 South East St. (Map 15C, Parcels 3&4).

**Butler moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0)** to continue the hearing to the 9/26/18 meeting at 7:30pm.

**7:45pm Notice of Intent (cont'd from 8/22 mtg)** - TOA Conservation Dept for replacement of the KC Trail bridge over the Hop Brook off Southeast St. (Map 20B, Parcel 20).

**Butler moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0)** to continue the hearing to the 9/26/18 meeting at 7:45pm.

#### **Miscellaneous Untimed Items:**

- Certificate of Compliance – Catherine & Robert Cann for 189 Mill Ln.

Willson presented photos from the site visit. The project is complete, rain gardens and swales are all vegetated and working, invasive removal still in process. Willson stated the environmental consultant did two herbicide treatments and physical removal of the multi-floral rose and three years of monitoring. At this point homeowners are hand pulling when they see baby plants. Commission decides to put

continue invasive removal into perpetuity in Certificate of Compliance.

**Clark moved and Fair seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0)** to issue the Certificate of Compliance with condition of continued invasive management.

- Certificate of Compliance – Tom Benjamin for 1101 Southeast St.

Willson presented photos from the site visit. They built a rain garden for roof drainage which is nicely vegetated. The bank down to the conservation land is nicely planted. Everything is stable, look great.

**Clark moved and Fair seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0)** to issue the Certificate of Compliance.

- Emergency Certification – Jason Edwards for 149 & 150 Blackberry Ln

Willson stated there was a huge pine tree along the driveway that split and the owner thought may fall into the road, maybe even onto their neighbors house. Jason Edwards, Curb to Curb Landscaping, requested an Emergency Cert because to fall the tree it would sit across wetlands. When Willson went after the work was done it was all cleaned up and the wetland was fine.

**Butler moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0)** to ratify the Emergency Cert.

- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting.

### **Adjournment**

**Voted** unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 8:00 PM.