

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Ms. Robb at 7:05 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Robb, Allen, Baker (arrived at 8:01), Gerber, Kaplan, Stein

**Absent:** Manire-Gatti

**Staff:** Ziomek, Ciccarello

**Others:** David McKinnon, John Kopinsky, Pete Westover, Buzz Wagner, Linda Hess

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S ACTION**

**Approve Minutes**

**VOTED** (4-0-1), Robb, Allen, Gerber, Stein voted "Aye," Kaplan abstained to approve the Conservation Commission minutes of February 27, 2008.

**VOTED** (4-0-1), Allen, Gerber, Kaplan, Stein voted "Aye," Robb abstained to approve the Conservation Commission minutes of March 26, 2008.

**PERMITS/CERTIFICATES**

**Request for Determination of Applicability (RFD 08-1110)** – Amherst Conservation Department for replacement of bog bridging located on Station Road (Map 21C, parcel 27; Map 24A, parcels 44 & 45).

- Opened the public hearing at 7:32 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

David McKinnon presented for the Amherst Conservation Department and distributed photos of bog bridging in various states of deterioration.

**VOTED** unanimously (5-0), to close the public hearing and to issue a negative determination for the work.

**7:40 PM - Request for Determination of Applicability (RFD 08-1111)** – Skyline Builders for construction of a single family house, driveway and associated utilities in the buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands located on Stanley Street (Map 18A, parcel 14).

- Opened the public hearing at 7:48 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 8:00 p.m.

John Kopinsky presented for the applicant. Stephanie Ciccarello, Wetlands Administrator, read special conditions to be imposed.

**VOTED** unanimously (5-0), to close the public hearing and to issue a negative determination for the work with special conditions as follows:

1. Erosion control shall be continued along the western edge of the property boundary to more efficiently contain potential sediment migration
2. Erosion control shall be carefully installed at the western edge around the tree so as to prevent damage to tree roots.

3. Erosion control shall serve as the limit of work.
4. Stawbales and straw shall be used in lieu of haybales and hay to prevent the spread of invasive seed.
5. The Wetlands Administrator shall be notified upon installation of the erosion control at least 48 hours prior to construction
6. A portable toilet shall be on site during construction.
7. Proposed fencing shall be raised 1 ½' above ground to allow movement of wildlife.
8. Fencing shall be moved between 10' – 15' to the north to be out of priority habitat area.
9. Receipt of a revised plan by the Commission is required prior to work.

**Request for Determination (RFD 08-1107)** (Cont'd from 3/26/08) – Richard Brazeau for DCR for construction of two vehicle storage garages with parking areas and associated grading at 51 Military Road, Amherst (Map 28A, Parcel 3).

- Opened the public hearing at 8:01 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 8:05 p.m.

Rich Brazeau was present and indicated that the DCR has not yet received an NHESP impact letter.

**VOTED** unanimously (5-0), to close the public hearing and to issue a negative determination for the work with the condition that straw bales be used instead of hay bales.

**Notice of Intent (NOI-08-1109)** (Cont'd from 3/26/08) – Gordon Hall for clearing of brush and invasive shrubs and vines in the upland and buffer zone area and planting of agricultural crops and/or black walnut or other hardwood saplings located at Thrush Lane, Amherst (Map 18C, Parcels 49-66)

- Opened the public hearing at 8:06 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 8:35 p.m.

**VOTED** (5-0-1), Robb, Allen, Gerber, Kaplan, Stein voted “Aye,” Baker abstained to close the public hearing and to issue an Order of Conditions with special conditions as cited by the Wetlands Administrator:

1. A plan shall be submitted with flagpoints: permanent markers indicated prior to work.
2. Should access over conservation land be denied, a separate NOI shall be submitted for access from Old Farm Road which shall include a surveyed plan of the crossing location and a minimum of 1:1 replication
3. A winter cover crop shall be planted to stabilize disturbed soils

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**VOTED** unanimously (6-0), to adjourn the open session and to convene an Executive Session.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Informal Discussion – Bog Bridging**

Dave McKinnon gave a PowerPoint presentation on trail maintenance and bog bridging (foot-trail) maintenance. Dave Ziomek also spoke to the issue as well.

**Access to Thrush Lane - Discussion**

Dave Ziomek presented his position on access across the Wentworth Farm Conservation Area and KC Trail to the Hall property; a discussion of the concerns ensued. The Commission agreed that a written license agreement should be drawn up. Mr. Ziomek will work with Town Counsel to create such a license agreement.

**VOTED** (5-1), Robb, Allen, Gerber, Kaplan and Stein voted "Aye," Baker voted "Nay" to request that the Conservation Director work with Town Counsel to create a license agreement for access across the Wentworth Farm Conservation Area and KC Trail to the Hall property.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**VOTED** unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 9:12 p.m.