

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. Angus, Chair at 7:07 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Angus (C), Kaplan (VC), Stein, Hamin, Walker, Allen

Absent: Gerber

Staff: Ziomek, Ciccarello

Others: Guilford Mooring, Jeff Squire, Larry Archey, MA Highway rep,

CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S ACTION

Approve Minutes

Kaplan moved and Stein seconded. Commission VOTED 5-0-1 (Hamin abstained) to approve the Conservation Commission minutes of September 23, 2009 as corrected.

PERMITS/CERTIFICATES

7:30 PM – Notice of Intent (cont'd from 12/10/08) – Amherst Department of Public Works for the replacement of 2,513 feet of existing sewer pipe and 250 feet of existing drain pipe within sewer easement between Rolling Ridge Road and Harlow Drive (Map 5D, Parcel 145 and 152).

- Opened the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

Kaplan moved and Stein seconded. Commission VOTED unanimously 6-0 to continue the hearing to October 28, 2009 at 7:40 PM at the applicant's request.

7:45 PM –Request for an Amended Order of Conditions – Berkshire Design Group for Hampshire College for driveway construction located off West Bay Road (Map 25B, Parcel 52).

- Opened the public hearing at 7:45 PM.
- Closed the public hearing at 7:54 p.m.

Jeff Squire of the Berkshire Design Group presented plan modifications on behalf of Hampshire College. Proposed changes include moving the road to re-align the centerlines. Setback distance was previously 78 feet from the wetland, but will now be 48 feet. The 30 foot no disturb area will still be maintained. Total impacts to the buffer zone increased from 4,880 square feet to 9,752 square feet.

Kaplan moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED 5-0-1 (Stein abstained), to close the public hearing and to issue an Amended Order of Conditions.

MISCELLANEOUS UNTIMED ITEMS:

Director's Report:

Puffer's Pond 2020 – There will be two public meetings being held on Saturday, October 24th from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM and on Thursday, October 29th from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. The first ten minutes will be a map exercise, followed by a discussion of strengths and weaknesses of Puffer's Pond and what people would like to see (facilitated by Elisabeth Hamin). Dave Ziomek will then give a presentation on conservation challenges.

Elisabeth encouraged members to invite others to attend and will get a press release out soon.

Both grants have been submitted for Puffer's Pond and its associated trails totaling @ \$39,000.

Land – The Olendzki land grant is in and the only one pending. Dave expects to hear something within the next three weeks. All other land projects are completed.

In preparing for next year's CPAC, Dave is having appraisals done on several properties and will try to get them together to be presented to the Committee to see if they are feasible.

Most large conservation areas have been mowed and hayed. Greg Aldrich has been hired to do some mowing per the WHIP grant. As some of our fields have low quality hay that is better for bedding rather than hay, Dave is reaching out to some area farmers to see if they would be interested in mowing for bedding material.

Grants - There are several grant projects in the works. Nate Malloy, with assistance from Stephanie Ciccarello, Ron Bohonowicz and Guilford Mooring has secured a \$162,000 Department of Energy Grant. The Town has currently secured \$255,000 in total.

VOTE: Article 4 – Ziomek stated that there is a warrant article proposed for land acquisition of 65 acres in Pelham which is critical for Amherst water quality, watershed protection and support for a variety of wildlife. He sought the support of, and an endorsement from, the Commission. The total expenditure from this purchase would be \$170,000 from the water and sewer fund with 50% back from DEP. This project depends upon the partners and DEP grant. No CPA money is proposed to be used for this acquisition.

Stein moved to support Article 4 and the purchase of the Adriance property in Pelham. Hamin seconded. Commission voted unanimously 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Stein moved and Kaplan seconded. Commission VOTED unanimously 6-0 to adjourn the open meeting at 7:55 p.m.