

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. Angus, Chair at 7:06 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Angus (C), Allen, Hamin, Muska

Absent: Walker

Staff: Ziomek, Ciccarello

CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S ACTION

**Approve Minutes**

Minutes of 6/21/11 could not be approved as Allen and Muska were not in attendance. To be approved at the 7/27/11 meeting.

**7:05 PM Request for permission of a temporary lemonade stand at Puffer's Pond**

The request is to sell lemonade on July 17<sup>th</sup> and July 23<sup>rd</sup> in order to raise money that will be donated to the Kestrel Trust to help with maintenance of, and education about, Puffer's Pond.

**Muska moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED** (3-0-1; Hamin abstained) to allow a lemonade stand at Puffer's Pond on the dates specified.

**7:10 PM Informal Discussion – RE: New Academic Building at UMASS**

Mickey Marcus, Jason Venditti and Sandy Brock presented. Mickey distributed a revised letter to Commission members. Upcoming project at UMASS is to build a new academic building in the buffer zone of the pond. The dyke outlet structure is in disrepair and will need to be replaced. The dyke work will be included as part of the NOI application for the building construction. Approximately 2 -5 feet of impact is expected along the edge of the pond. They're looking at stormwater management issues as they relate to the pond and how they can improve them.

PERMITS/CERTIFICATES

**7:30 PM Request for Determination – Town of Amherst Conservation Department for replacement of an existing bridge located on the Robert Frost Trail in the Eastman Brook Conservation Area (Map 2B, parcel 8).**

- Opened the public meeting at 8:10 p.m.

**Hamin moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED** unanimously (4-0-0) to continue the meeting to July 27, 2011 at 7:35 PM

**7:35 PM Request for Determination – Town of Amherst Conservation Department for installation of a bridge at Puffer's Pond located off State Street (Map5B, parcel 129).**

- Opened the public meeting at 8:11 p.m.

**Muska moved and Hamin seconded. Commission VOTED** unanimously (4-0-0) to continue the meeting to July 27, 2011 at 7:40 PM

**7:40 PM Request for Determination – Town of Amherst Conservation Department for installation of a bridge at Amethyst Brook Conservation Area located off Pelham Road (Map 12C, parcel 5 & Map 15B, parcel 87).**

- Opened the public meeting at 8:12 p.m.

**Muska moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED** unanimously (4-0-0) to continue the meeting to July 27, 2011 at 7:45 PM

**7:45 PM Request for Determination (cont'd from 6/21/11 mtg)–Amherst Survival Center for the demolition and construction of a new community facility in the buffer zone of a town jurisdictional intermittent stream located at 138 Sunderland Road (Map 5A, parcel 26).**

**Hamin moved and Muska seconded. Commission VOTED** unanimously (4-0-0) to continue the meeting to July 27, 2011 at 7:30 PM.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- Dave distributed a handout regarding land conservation entitled “The Creed of Conservation Land”.
- Work resulting from the DCR land grant in ongoing at Puffer’s Pond.
- The Conservation Department has backed away from the “no trash” policy at Puffer’s as people began dumping trash in the port-o-potties. The company that provides them threatened to take them out if garbage cans were not made available.
- The town submitted two PARC grants thanks to Nate Malloy for the War Memorial Pool and for work at Puffer’s Pond.
- The land deal closed on the Stotz property. Signs need to be posted as a requirement of the grant.
- Kestrel Trust deals will be recorded at the Registry of Deeds (@ 30 acres) in the following week.
- Approximately 20 new Bluebird boxes are up installed by an Eagle Scout.
- A site visit has been scheduled at Wentworth Farm for July 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM with folks from WMECO to investigate possible mitigation sites for a project they’re working on in Leverett.
- The town rec’d a MA Environmental Trust Grant for \$50,000 for a dam removal project on Amethyst Brook.
- Briony and Dave went out with Dr. Boyd Canard to Amethyst Brook to discuss the implications of water withdrawal. He gave suggestions as to how the town could handle the situation that will be useful for the land policy discussion.
- Nick Grabbe called Dave regarding the dog policy and recent incidents at Amethyst Brook. There will be an article in the Daily Hampshire Gazette.

**MISCELLANEOUS UNTIMED ITEMS:**

**Request for a Certificate of Compliance - Cooley Dickenson Hospital – University Drive**

Ciccarello reported that the work never occurred. The hospital representatives would like to remove the Order of Conditions from the deed.

**Allen moved and Hamin seconded. Commission VOTED** unanimously (4-0-0) to issue a Certificate of Compliance for an Invalid Order of Conditions.

DZ reported that he caught a landscaper withdrawing water from Hop Brook near Atkins. He confronted the individual but the person knew that the Town's Bylaw did not have water withdrawal regulations. DZ recommends that the Commission look at including some limitation on water withdrawal in the Wetlands Protection Bylaw as there is little control below the DEP threshold. Angus will look into the towns that do have water withdrawal policies.

BA and DZ will schedule some dates for farm field visits

DZ would like the Commission to visit the properties that the Town is pursuing. He suggested a Saturday date where all could picnic or pizza afterwards. It was suggested that a date be chosen in September.

Commission is in need of two more members. DZ will speak to John Musante.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**VOTED** unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 8:58 p.m.