

**Conservation Commission Meeting
October 22, 2014
Town Room, Amherst Town Hall**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. Angus, Chair at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Angus (C), Boice (VC), Allen, Healey, Brooks, Clark

Staff: Ziomek, Willson

CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS

Willson provided an update with photos on the Norwottuck Rail Trail project. Drainage improvements complete, grass growing in but erosion control still in place. Bridges complete. Currently paving from S Pleasant to SE St. Angus asked when getting close to Station Rd. Willson stated next spring. They are placing erosion control all the way to Station Rd. this fall before shutting down for winter. Announcement of new state regs and workshops in Con Com packet. Western MA workshop, unfortunately, on our next meeting date. Mark Stinson has said there will be more workshops. Binders with new regs will be provided at next mtg. Willson provided update on Olympia Oaks with photos. Construction done, footing drain outlets are eroding soil at outlets. Willson to meet with contractor next week.

Ziomek stated there was a celebration at the Orchard Arboretum for the new ADA accessible walkway addition. Paid for entirely by Applewood resident donations. He provided photos. Ziomek out at SE St. parcel today discussing trail location. Carol Gray has secured a grant for \$4,000 for bird houses, benches, signs and plantings. She will reach out to Harvey to help get group together to put up bird boxes. Kiosk in today. NOI will be submitted in two weeks for trail construction.

MINUTES

No minutes reviewed

PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS

7:15 PM Request for Determination (cont'd from 10-8-14 mtg) – Mike and Adriana Powell for determination of jurisdictional area at 149 Pomeroy Lane (Map 20C, Parcel 29).

Alan Weiss presented additional information including soil boring data sheets, GIS maps, topo map, and boring location map. All information emailed to Commission prior to mtg. Soil boring done in depression area along eastern property boundary, some transitional soil but no vegetation or other hydric indicators. Area south of driveway also investigated and found not hydric. House location was rotated away from areas of concerns. Angus said determination will have to define area using legal description of lot.

Clark moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-1, Healey abstained) to close the public meeting and issue a Neg Det #1 that area (the entire lot) depicted on plans is not an area or buffer zone subject to the WPA.

7:30 PM Request for Determination – UMASS Amherst for upgrades to a water line within buffer zone to a pond and bordering vegetated wetlands at 128 Tilson Farm Rd. (Map 8C, Parcel 13C).

Mickey Marcus, New England Env., and Kim Barshowski, UMASS presented. Marcus stated project to increase capacity of water line (increase diameter) and install a fire hydrant within 50' of pond. Same pond that UMASS is doing mitigation (invasives removal & replanting) from Tillson Farm Substation project and parking lot project. Old hydrant knocked over by plow, moving it closer to pond so won't get knocked over again. Hydrant and trenching within lawn and driveway. Erosion control will be installed between work area and pond.

Boice moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED (6-0-0) to close the public meeting and issue a Neg #3 Determination work in buffer zone won't impact resource area.

[UMASS, NEE presents on Academic Bldg.](#)

Mickey stated there was a final walk with Army Corps folks to close out all Army Corps work. Wetland mitigation area and most work finished would like to remove turbidity curtain, filter tube, and stop weekly & storm monitoring. Provided photos to Commission. One more yr of monitoring of replication area required, reports will be provided regarding that monitoring. Healey asked when southern section of pond will be worked on. UMASS not sure when that work will occur. Marcus stated UMASS is planning to put electrical lines underground along Eastman Ln, they will be submitting an NOI. Willson stated we have received the NOI and it's on the agenda for 11/12/15.

7:45 PM Notice of Intent (cont'd from 10-8-14 mtg) – Town of Amherst Conservation Department for replacement of cribbing, installation of fencing & trail repairs within resource areas at Puffer's Pond Conservation Area (Map 5B, Parcels 16, 129 & 130 and Map 2D, Parcel 8).

Willson said we've received a letter from NHESP stating no impact to habitat of endangered species. Project presented in detail at previous meetings.

Boice moved and Brooks seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-1, Healey abstained) to close the public hearing and issue the Order of Conditions.

Miscellaneous Untimed Items:

- CPA - Boice stated the next CPA mtg is 11/18/14 when they will talking more about the procedures document they're putting together on how CPAC reviews/evaluates projects. 12/10/14 is deadline for 2015 proposals, they will meet week after and start going through proposals. Ziomek added that the

surcharge increase will be voted on by the Town of 11/4/14. The Select Board voted to support the ballot question.

Ziomek stated Willson worked with Clean Water Action and the Justice Dept. to get \$40,000 in settlement money, from a lawsuit involving stream contamination in Belchertown, to be used for the Fearing Brook study. Hitchcock Ctr is fiscal agent because the money needed to go to a non-profit. Hitchcock is a partner on the project.

Ziomek there is an event in Turners Falls at Unity Park on 10/27/15 at 3pm to announce LAND grants, Amherst hopeful to be getting funds for Hall property about \$233,000. Please attend if you can. Town would still be going to CPAC for another \$100,000 to buy property. Wonderful acquisition includes south side of Owens Pond, existing trail, and land adjacent to Gull Pond. Ziomek to talk to Commission about other open space projects at second mtg in Nov. Would still like to get Commission more involved in land acquisition process. Willson to organize open space site visits (tour) in late Nov. early Dec.

-Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting

Adjournment

Voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 8:20 PM.