

**Conservation Commission Meeting
June 24, 2015
Town Room, Amherst Town Hall**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE

Present: Boice, Healey, Clark, Butler

Staff: Willson

CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS

Boice stated that our 7:45PM agenda item is being moved to 7/8 mtg because a butter notification was not mailed in time for this meeting. Willson stated Dave Z wanted to apologize for canceling the open space tour at the last minute we plan to re-schedule late summer/early fall. Willson stated the work on the North Beach at Puffer's Pond is moving along, they have completed new cribbing, steps, and placement of new sand and are working on the ADA path from the parking area. The fence is almost complete on the cliffs, the fence company is returning this week to finish the back section right next to the pond. Photos were presented. Willson visited Presidential Apts and walked the erosion control barrier on the south side of the project. Areas where construction debris was lying on the silt fence and the silt fence was knocked down were reported to the env. monitor and contractor. Sedimentation basins need to grow in more vegetation before being approved for use.

Boice stated there are other Conservation Commissions with specifications or guidelines regarding lawn care.

All seemed OK with some kind of organic fertilizer, some said applied in the fall or applied sparingly. All seemed OK with lime. All said no to pesticides and herbicides. Boice will print out copies of what's on line and we can work on putting guidelines together or just an information sheet with contacts for applicants.

Willson shared the final Puffer's Pond kiosk designs with the Commission.

MINUTES

Reviewed/Approved Minutes 9-10-14

Butler moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0) to approve the minutes of 9-10-14.

PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS

7:30 PM Request for Determination – Trustees of Hampshire College for road resurfacing within buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands on West St. (Map 25B, Parcel 62 & Map 22D, Parcels 9 and 15).

Jeff Squire, Berkshire Design, presented project. Hampshire College would like to resurface portions of the road that wraps around the center of campus. They would just be milling and repaving, it is expected to only take a couple days. There are a few wetland buffer zones they will be going through. Erosion control will be placed between the work and the wetland area, and all catch basins will have silt bags. The road widening and rerouting was previously approved by the Commission. The work will be done during the month of July. Butler why erosion control was not marked on the plan? Squire said it is on the construction plan which he'll provide to Wetlands Administrator prior to construction.

Healey moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0) to close the public meeting and issue a Negative Determination with the condition that a plan showing the location of the erosion control be provided to the Wetlands Administrator prior to construction.

7:45 PM Request for Determination – Amherst Conservation Department for confirmation of wetland boundaries and trail mowing within buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands on Belchertown Rd. (Map 15C, Parcel 22).

Hearing moved to 7/8 mtg.

Miscellaneous Untimed Items:

- Ch. 61 withdrawal – Pauline A. Lannon & Harold W. Gould for West St. property (Map 25B, portion of Parcel 32)

Willson stated property is adjacent to rotary in front of Atkins Market on West St. It's a small sliver of land that they want to make residential. Willson provided maps showing the protected open space nearby and wetland areas.

Healey moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0) to recommend to the Select Board that they **not** use their right of first refusal and purchase the property on West St.

- Sign Epstein Gift

Willson stated Kestrel bought this property for \$70,000 and is selling it to the Town for \$1. There are trails on it already, the old trolley line trail goes threw the property.

Healey moved and Butler seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0) to accept the gift of the Epstein property from the Kestrel Trust.

- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting

Adjournment

Voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 7:50 PM.