

**Conservation Commission Meeting  
July 22, 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, Allen, Brooks, Clark

Staff: Ziomek, Willson

**CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS**

Ziomek stated that Chet Hall, Assistant Land Manager, quit to work for Mass Wildlife at Montague Fish Hatchery. Summer crew will be working until the end of August. Have been getting all positive comments from the public regarding the work at North Beach of Puffer's Pond. LAND Grant was submitted for Stosz/Stowes property along East Leverett Rd. We had a signing ceremony for the Epstein property donation, Allen attended. A lot of issues at Puffer's Pond this summer, would like to take a look at the Puffer's Pond 2020 recommendations and work on parking, regulation enforcement, etc., fee system to pay for better enforcement.

Todd (?) from the Donahue Institute at UMASS introduced a group of international students who have travelled to the US as part of a program called the Civic Initiative to study public policy. Ziomek spoke to them earlier in the day regarding local government and now they are here to see how a public committee meeting is run in Amherst. Boice described the role of the Conservation Commission in Amherst policy making and who can be on the Commission. Commission had a short question and answer session with the group.

Willson presented photos of Reed bridge and Stosz bridge construction.

Mickey Marcus, NEE, provided update on UMASS Campus Pond work. Hydro-raking, permitted under OOCs a few years ago, will start in the next couple weeks will let Wetlands Administrator know exact start date. Improvements to the southern end of pond, already permitted, will be done by UMASS facilities and is also starting in the next couple weeks but will be done in small pieces starting with removing trees and shrubs. Marcus stated UMASS is looking to do an expansion of a parking lot off of Governor's Dr. within buffer zone to BVW so they will be filing with the Commission. Another upcoming UMASS project will be fixing the drainage area south of the soccer fields along Mass Ave where stormwater overflow discharges. They are looking at maybe a series of detention basins/wetland feature to slow the water and lesson erosion.

Wetland mitigation area from Tillson Farm Rd. substation project is complete, Commission will be receiving a monitoring report in the fall. Contractors are back in the wetland putting up the poles, all foundation work was previously completed. They put matting down again and will re-vegetate once work is done. Duct bank project also complete including restoration and mitigation. Willson stated she went out when planting was first done. Marcus said Commission will receive monitoring reports for that project also. Hampshire College is proposing a solar project in the field across from Atkins Market.

## MINUTES

No minutes reviewed.

## PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS

**7:30 PM Request for Determination** – Amherst-Colonial Village, LLC/Allen Cohn for determination of resource area boundaries and jurisdiction at Colonial Village Apartments, 200 South East St. (Map 15C, Parcels 10 & 16).

Allen Cohn, property owner, stated the open space/grass lawn in front of Colonial Village along SE St. was originally going to be an apartment building but never got built, they are now looking for additional development opportunities on the property. Town built new sidewalk along SE St. last year which created a steeper slope from the street to Colonial Village property. Con Com gave permission this year for stockpiling of soil on parcel, now looking at wetland delineation for the area.

Mickey Marcus, NEE, presented delineation. He stated it's his opinion, as a Profession Wetland Scientist, that there are no jurisdictional wetlands under the state regs on the parcel and one at the NW corner that could be jurisdictional under the Town bylaw. He presented data forms. The wetland at the NW corner has wetland characteristics, doesn't have an inlet or outlet, it's over 500 square feet, so fits definition of isolated wetland regulated under the Town bylaw.

Allen asked where will water go if area built on. Marcus answered could condition determination to state that if this area is altered applicant must account for water storage ability of that soil. If they build they will be designing a stormwater system for the new building.

Marcus stated that the second area is a swale in the lawn, it's mowed annually, it is a low lying part of the lawn. Don't know if it was originally built as a stormwater drainage feature. NEE did test pit at lowest point in the swale and found hydric soils and groundwater at about 15 inches below grade. Wetland plants and hydric soils were patchy throughout swale. He stated the field is mostly fill, he doesn't feel the area meets the definition of a wetland. Brooks stated at the site visit wetland plants were pointed out by NEE and it appeared to be over 50% of the vegetation throughout the swale. Brooks stated he doesn't feel like he has enough information on the soils to say wetland or not. Marcus said if he delineated it would be a mosaic of small wetland areas next to non-wetland areas, the wetland wouldn't be continuous. Willson asked how many soil borings were done. Marcus answered over 20 throughout the field. Boice stated NEE needs to provide additional soil data to Commission in order for them to make a decision.

**Brooks moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0)** to continue the public meeting until 8/12/15 at 7:30pm at which time the applicant will provide additional soil information for area two.

### **Miscellaneous Untimed Items:**

- Emergency Certification – UMASS damaged Tan Brook culvert

Willson stated the culvert carrying the Tan Brook was damaged during the installation of the parking lot solar arrays at UMASS along Mass Ave. An Emergency Cert was issued and they placed erosion control around the opening, and patched the culvert. Willson presented pictures.

**Allen moved and Brooks seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0)** to ratify the Emergency Certification.

- Discussion – UMASS culvert replacement Eastman Ln.

Mickey Marcus, NEE, the culvert is too crushed to put sleeve in as was planned under OOCs for duct bank project. He wants to know if the Commission will require a new NOI or amendment to OOCs. UMASS would like to do the work in the next year. Willson stated NEE needs to submit a letter providing more detail on the proposed work and formally requesting whether the Commission will require an NOI or allow an amendment.

- Enforcement Order #3 – 60 Sunderland Rd.

Commission reviewed draft EO #3 prepared by Wetlands Administrator.

**Clark moved and Brooks seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0)** to issue EO #3.

- Re-appoint CPAC Representative – Paris Boice

Boice stated her term is running out as Con Com rep to CPAC. She enjoys working with CPAC, however, having two small children it is difficult to get out in the evening. Boice is happy to be the rep for another year but others should consider it for the future. Brooks we REALLY appreciate the work Paris does.

**Brooks nominated Boice and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0)** to approve Boice nomination for Con Com rep to CPAC.

- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting

### **Adjournment**

**Voted** unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 8:35 PM.