

**Conservation Commission Meeting
August 26, 2015
Town Room, Amherst Town Hall**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE

Present: Boice, Allen, Healey, Brooks, Butler

Staff: Ziomek, Willson

CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS

Ziomek we've received over 40 applications for the Assistant Land Manager position. We're going through the applications now and will start interviews next week. Early successional field maintenance will be reduced this year, usually brush hog up to 250 acres, because there is no Assistant Land Manager. High profile areas will get done, Mt. Pollux, Wentworth, Fort River Farm, others wait until next year. Moving ahead with a couple land acquisitions. Town Counsel is going through documents for the Hall property, hopefully close in October. We've applied for a LAND grant for the Stosz/Stowes property on East Leverett Rd and we have a walk around with the state grant folks tomorrow.

Working with residents at Applewood to develop a "friends" group. We've received many of the same complaints this summer about Puffer's Pond - alcohol consumption, diving off cliffs, dogs, - so have put together new signs to post. Ziomek is walking State St. with Guilford Mooring on Friday to talk about the Mill St. bridge project and what could be done with parking, one way traffic, etc. Ziomek met with police chief and animal welfare officer about collaborating more and possibly creating a Community Service Officer position for Puffer's. There is interest in a Friend's of Mt. Pollux group, there is a meeting planned for 9/26th, great to have Commissioners there. Willson will send out mtg info. There are different opinions from the public on what they would like to see done at Mt. Pollux but Cons Dept will be working with them on management strategies. Willson to write draft management plan.

Willson stated UMASS has been doing the hydro-raking at Campus Pond the past two weeks. There are two MSDS sheets for herbicides NEE is using at Mill Ln residential project. The Colonial Village apts project that was continued at our 7/22/15 mtg has been further continued until our 9/23/15 mtg. As you know, we didn't have a mtg on 8/12/15 because the agenda did not get posted on time. This Friday, 8/28/15 we are having a site visit to Blue Bird Meadow Cons area to look at the area where the proposed trail crosses the wetland and interpretive sign designs with Carol Gray. Ziomek stated that if no funding is available to replicate wetland impacts from trail crossing we could re-route the trail and have it loop back to start near Norwottuck Rail Trail. Healey asked if we could decrease the width of the trail to 2' then much less wetland impact. Willson stated no trails are 2' wide, Brad always clears at least 4'.

Ziomek added the beaver deceiver at Gull Pond is not functioning and causing a back up into the Town's sewer treatment system. We may be coming to the Commission to replace the beaver deceiver at our next meeting.

Boice stated CPAC now has four proposals for fall town meeting. At their meeting last night Vince O'Connor submitted a proposal to restore the Mill St. bridge abutments using CPA funds because they

are historical. There are no Open Space proposals, other proposals include the North Common, Little Red Schoolhouse, Crocker Farm Preschool.

MINUTES

Approved minutes of 9-23-14, 10-8-14, 10-22-14

Brooks moved and Butler seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-1, Healey abstained) to approve the minutes of 9-23-14.

Allen moved and Brooks seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-1, Healey abstained) to approve the minutes of 10-8-14.

Healey moved and Brooks seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-1, Butler abstained) to approve the minutes of 10-22-14.

PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS

7:15 PM Request for Determination – Suzanne and Deron Estes for construction of an aboveground pool, associated grading, decking and fence installation within buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands at 156 Cherry Lane (Map 9A, Parcel 60).

Deron Estes, homeowner, described the project. Proposing an aboveground pool with attached deck off of the NE corner of the house. The ground is sloped some grading will be done to level the yard for the pool. Also, constructing a patio west of the pool along the north side of the house. The patio will be a 12ft circle. Willson stated all work is within the 100 ft and outside the 50 ft buffers to an intermittent stream. Boice stated the erosion control should be brought closer to the project area and put at the limit of work. Butler added erosion control needs to be included on the plan for the patio area. Estes stated if the deck isn't built right away a temporary fence will be built around the pool for safety.

Brooks moved and Butler seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to close the public meeting and issue a Negative Determination #3 with the condition that the applicant provide updated plans showing revised erosion control locations.

Miscellaneous Untimed Items:

- Certificate of Compliance - 31 Weaver Circle (Map 8B, Parcel 131).

Willson stated this is a partial release of the overall permit for construction of the infrastructure for this lot.

Allen moved and Healey seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to issue the Certificate of Compliance for 31 Weaver Circle.

- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting

Adjournment

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

