

**Conservation Commission Meeting  
November 10, 2015  
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, Allen, Brooks, Clark

Staff: Willson

**CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS**

Willson stated that some of the Con Com did a site inspection of 32 Hawthorn Rd. this morning and the grass had not grown in at all, so she told the applicant we would have to wait until the spring when the grass was grown in to review the project and issue a COC. Willson conducted a site visit for the Enforcement Order at 60 Sunderland Rd., all the requirements of the EO, mainly implementing the planting plan, have been done. The last EO already closed out the enforcement so we don't need to issue another EO tonight. An RFP to farm the 3-acre parcel Wentworth Farm was issued, we're hoping to get a better response because it's being issued in the fall this year. Last year we issued it in March and didn't get any acceptable proposals. Proposals are due December 4, we'll be asking for at least one Commissioner to volunteer to be on the review committee. If you know of any farmers that may be interested let us know.

Ziomek stated he will be in the Interim Town Manager position until at least the end of January, 2016. Jonathon Tucker, a Senior Planner in our office, is beginning to work on Land Management Plans for various conservation areas. We're hoping to bring draft documents to the Commission for your review in the next 6-12 months. There is a Friends of Mt. Pollux group being formed, Ziomek has met with them a couple times and they have met with the Kestrel Trust. The Kestrel Trust would be their fiscal agent. Clark asked if they would have to follow the Management Plan. Ziomek said yes. Staff is brush hogging and mowing to close areas up for the winter.

**MINUTES**

Review/approve Minutes of 1-14-15 & 1-28-15

**Clark moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0)** to approve the minutes of 1-14-15.

**Brooks moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0)** to approve the minutes of 1-28-15.

**PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS**

**7:10 PM Request for Determination** – Dan Greaney for replacement of a deck and ADA accessible ramps within buffer zone to an intermittent stream at 124 Middle St. (Map 23B, Parcel 19).

Dan Greaney, property owner, stated the project consists of replacing a deck and ADA accessible ramps to his house that are old and rotting. Willson provided pictures from the site visit. Willson stated

construction of the deck has started, erosion control is up and there is a walkway between the work and the stream. Willson asked who is doing the work. Greaney stated a contractor, at first he was going to try and do it himself but it just got too big. Clark asked how far is the brook from the work. Greaney said the closest point is probably 25-30'.

**Brooks moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0)** to close the public meeting and issue a Negative Determination #3 for the work.

**7:20 PM Request for Determination** – Simple Gifts Farm for construction of a farm stand and associated site work within buffer zone to an intermittent stream at 1089 North Pleasant St. (Map 5C, Parcel 21).

Dave Tepfer, owner Simple Gifts farm, and Bruce Coldham architect presented the project. Tepfer stated they would like to build a farm stand closer to the street. The building will be 24'x36' with an 8' porch and be located north of current driveway. The structure is 50' from the intermittent stream bank to the north, there is some grading between the 30' and 50' setbacks. The land between the proposed farm stand and the stream will remain in perennial flowers and herbs. Neighbor (Marshal) asked if they were going to continue to have animals grazing in this area. Tepfer said yes, they like to have animals where the public comes in. Allen asked if they will keep the animals out of the stream. Tepfer said yes, they always have had animals grazing up to the stream bank but not down the bank. Marshal asked if the stand will increase noise and how high will the building be. Tepfer said the building will be one and a half stories. Ziomek said a vegetated buffer along the stream bank is important. Tepfer said the stream is very flashy due to the development upstream. Willson stated let her know when the erosion control is up for inspection.

**Allen moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0)** to close the public meeting and issue a Negative Determination for the work.

**7:45 PM Move to First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall to meet with Ag Commission**

**Miscellaneous Untimed Items:**

- Review & sign APR Co-Holders Agreement – Mitchell property

Ziomek stated he and Kestrel Trust have been working with the APR program for a couple years to get this agreement made for the Mitchell property. The Kestrel Trust provided \$30,000 as the local match, the state is paying 90% and Kestrel is providing the other 10%. This document is saying the Conservation Commission will be the co-holder of the APR with the state. You're agreeing to, along with the state, keep the APR active and make sure nothing happens on the property that isn't consistent with the APR in perpetuity.

**Allen moved and Brooks seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0)** to sign the APR Co-Holders Agreement for the Mitchell property.

- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting

### **Adjournment**

**Voted** unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 7:45 PM.