

**Conservation Commission Meeting  
May 24, 2017  
Town Room, Amherst Town Hall**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Ms. Boice, Vice chair at 7:01 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Present: Boice, Allen, Clark, Brooks

Staff: Willson

**CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS**

Willson stated that Cons Dept staff (Bordewieck & Clark) have been working on the MA Fish & Wildlife Grant. Work is mostly mowing, idea is to maintain for early successional habitat and take back field edges. Commissioners might hear from residents asking what is going on. Willson said she is putting together a sign for the mowing locations describing what work is included in the grant. Sign is required by the grant program.

Willson provided update on Cole property. Although we got both LAND Grant and CPA money, the property owner wanted more money. So, property owner decided to develop and will be coming before the Commission with his subdivision plan at our next meeting. We tried to use the LAND grant and CPA money to buy two of his lots but the LAND grant people said no so we lost the grant money. There are still on-going discussions about the subdivision open space becoming Conservation Land. Allen asked where the new houses were going to be located. Willson said just south of the northern stream.

Boice stated all the CPA Open Space proposals were approved at Town Meeting. They included money to acquire the Cole property, Kieras property, due diligence funding, and trail & conservation land maintenance funding.

Allen stated the property owner at the end of Mechanic St. Extension still has signs up not allowing parking or access across his land. Willson said the Cons Dept is researching the deeds, etc. and may have to buy a small portion of his land.

Willson stated they put up the Puffer's Pond north beach kiosk design. Rte 63 is being re-milled and re-paved. There is a letter in the Commission's packet from MA DOT regarding the re-paving and their exemption from filing. State announced we are out of the drought. Staff did some prep work at Markert's Pond for installation of the flow structure, waiting on DPW to schedule installation. Hopefully they will arrange for the crane, that is needed to move the flow structure, in the next couple weeks. Campus Pond is getting an algae treatment this week. Willson stated both the Cole property subdivision and the apartment building on Rte 9 (former Amherst Motel site) will open at our next meeting.

## MINUTES

### **Minutes 8-10-16 & 8-24-16**

**Clark moved and Boice seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0)** to approve the minutes of 8-10-16.

**Clark moved and Brooks seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0)** to approve the minutes of 8-24-16.

## PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS

**None.**

### **Miscellaneous Untimed Items:**

- Certificate of Compliance – Leverett Rd parcel (Map 3A, Parcel 22).

Willson stated this is the field we recently permitted for a subdivision. It was also approved for development in 2004, and that is the Order of Conditions they are requesting a COC for. So, this COC will say invalid order because the work was never done. They still need the COC to go with the order on the title.

**Brooks moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0)** to issue the Certificate of Compliance.

- Certificate of Compliance – Leverett Rd parcels (Map 3A, Parcels 6 & 10)

Willson stated this Order was for landscaping on the lot north of the field on the northern side of the perennial stream. Willson & Brooks saw the landscaping during the site visit, it was done in accordance with the Order.

**Clark moved and Allen seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0)** to issue the Certificate of Compliance.

- Certificate of Compliance – Leverett Rd parcels (Map 3A, Parcels 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 62, 51, & 85).

Willson stated this Order came after the other two and was for converting the same field into a pasture. Owner had decided not to develop it. Order also included building a ski slope and more pasture land on parcels to the north. Willson provided photos from site visit on overhead.

**Clark moved and Brooks seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0)** to issue the Certificate of Compliance.

- Emergency Cert – TOA Cons. Dept beaver dam breach Puffer's Pond

Willson stated the Commission previously issued an Emergency Cert for the dam to be breached by hand, but the beavers just re-built. This request is to use an excavator to remove the dam. Matting was used so the excavator could get out into the pond a bit and really reach into the dam. Bordewieck used the excavator to smooth the slope down to the pond so the excavator could get down to the matting.

Willson presented pictures on the overhead of before and after breaching. The debris is being placed in the woods. Ziomek would like to leave the matting for two weeks in case the beavers rebuild. Brooks said this is not a solution, we may be doing more damage this way than just leaving it. He would like to see the site restored when the work is done. Willson said yes, when we are convinced the beavers won't come back they will pull up the matting, remove any debris, and re-seed and mulch the area. Install erosion control.

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

- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to a meeting.

### **Adjournment**

**Voted** unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 7:48 PM.