

Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 * 978-772-8249 * 978-772-8208 (fax)
Minutes for **9/27/12** –Approved 10/11/12

Location: Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor

Members present: Bill Daniels (BD, Chair), George Bacon (GB, Vice-Chair), Jessica Gugino (JG, Clerk), Takashi Tada (TT), Becky DaSilva-Conde (CA, Conservation Administrator)

APAC taped: Yes

6:45 PM – Open Meeting

○ **Confirmation of Agenda**

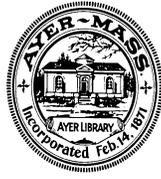
- GB moved to confirm agenda as posted; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.

○ **Discussion: Proposed chicken coop, 72 Snake Hill Road.**

- Peter Hartkopf and Huyen Nguyen were present.
- They plan to build or install a prebuilt chicken coop for 10 chickens on their property.
- BD said ConCom's concern was the steep slope of the backyard to the fence, beyond which lie a detention basin and wetlands.
 - During heavy rains, fecal waste from the coop must be prevented from flowing into the wetlands.
- Mr. Hartkopf said he planned to dig a pit barrier filled with sand and brick.
 - BD suggested a curved earthen berm instead
 - The distance between the fence and the berm should be 5-10 ft., and between the berm and the coop another 5 to 10 ft.
- Mr. Hartkopf and Ms. Nguyen were asked to submit an RDA.
- The application drawing should indicate the location and dimensions of the coop, and the actual distances planned between fence, berm and coop.
- CA will also contact the BOH to inform them that our permitting process is underway and that, from ConCom's perspective, the BOH can go ahead and issue its permit.

○ **CA Updates**

- CA will be contacting Sandy Pond Road resident Keith Henderson.
 - Mr. Henderson has safety concerns with some tall pine trees in his yard.
 - Mr. Henderson was asked to ribbon off the trees he would like to cut down.
 - CA will perform a site visit.
- CA received a request from Alex Woodle, of Groton.
 - Mr. Woodle is part of a pond association which is seeking approval to use Sonar in weed treatment on some of Groton's ponds.
 - The use of Sonar is opposed by some.
 - Mr. Woodle asked if a representative from Ayer ConCom could attend the NOI hearing with Groton's ConCom at 7 p.m. on 10/9 to be available to answer questions about Sonar if necessary.
 - TT volunteered to do so.



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- Trail update
 - TT forwarded CA an email from Steve Smith detailing trail maintenance work that needs to be done.
 - This includes chainsawing blowdowns and hand-digging out accumulated silt buildup from runoff at the trailhead on Groton-Harvard Road.
 - Riprap has been laid at the top of this trailhead to slow erosion.
 - Mr. Smith proposed a morning work session on Saturday, 10/13.
- **7:17 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
 - GB moved to adjourn; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.