

Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 * 978-772-8249 * 978-772-8208 (fax)
Minutes for **5/22/2014** – Approved 6/12/2014

Location: Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor

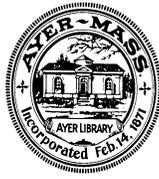
Members present: Bill Daniels (BD, Chair), George Bacon (GB, Vice-Chair), Takashi Tada (TT), Lee Curtis (LC), Jessica Gugino (JG, Clerk)

Not present: Becky DaSilva-Conde (CA, Conservation Administrator)

APAC taped: Yes

7:05 PM – Open Meeting

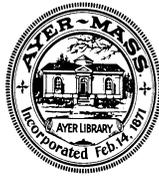
- **Confirmation of the Agenda**
 - GB moved to confirm the agenda as written; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Meeting Minutes Approval**
 - GB moved to accept the minutes for 5/8/14 as “spectacularly” written; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Public Hearing (cont’d.): ANRAD – 114 Pleasant Street, Riley Jane Farm, LLC (DEP #100-0372)**
 - A 2 hour site walk took place on 5/10/14, covering a portion of the area to be reviewed.
 - Because walking the site and doing a thorough review took far longer than the half-hour estimated by landowner C. J. Moore at ConCom’s 4/24 meeting, only a portion of the property was able to be reviewed on 5/10.
 - BD was insistent that CA, with her considerable wetland expertise, be present with ConCom at the next site walk for this ANRAD.
 - A second 2-hour site walk was scheduled for 8 a.m. on Saturday, 5/31.
 - In response to questions from a resident, BD explained that an Order of Resource Delineation is good only for a 3-year period.
 - TT added that any approvals issued by ConCom are required to be attached to the property deed.
 - The resident thanked ConCom for its information, and noted that in separate conversations, CA had been “very informative and fabulous.”
 - GB moved to continue the Public Hearing to 6/12/14; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Public Hearing (cont’d.): NOI – 25 Coolidge Road, Robert Pedrazzi (DEP #100-0373)**
 - Robert and Debra Pedrazzi were both present.
 - A site walk by ConCom to review the plans was conducted on 5/17/14.
 - No issues of concern were raised.
 - At that time, Chief Pedrazzi indicated a change to the plans and this was also reviewed on site.
 - The plan change entails construction of a terraced retaining wall 10 ft. back from the new garage structure, toward the Coolidge Street side of the property.
 - The retaining wall will have a set of stairs leading down to the new driveway off Lincoln Street at the back of the property.
 - BD told Chief Pedrazzi that an updated final plan needs to be provided to CA for ConCom’s records.
 - GB moved to approve and issue an OOC; TT 2nd.



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- Motion approved unanimously.
 - GB moved to continue the Public Hearing to 6/12, for the purpose of reviewing and signing the OOC; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Public Hearing (cont'd.): NOI – Nashua Street Extension (DEP #100-0363)**
 - GB moved to continue the Public Hearing to 6/12/14; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Discussion: Beaver Management Implementation**
 - It was discussed that CA had heard from Pat Huckery, District Manager for the Northeast District of Mass Wildlife, about ConCom's interest in installing a beaver deceiver at Rock Meadow Pond, abutting Autumn Ridge, Gun Club, and Town properties.
 - The failure of this dam in 2011 resulted in significant flooding that washed out a portion of Oak Ridge Drive.
 - CA contacted Ms. Huckery because this is a true beaver dam, not a manmade dam being blocked by beaver activity.
 - Work on natural beaver dams needs to be vetted through Mass Wildlife.
 - Ms. Huckery advised CA that since this dam has public safety issues, ConCom should issue an Emergency Certificate and file with the Board of Health.
 - ConCom therefore does not need to file an NOI to work on this dam.
 - However, ConCom does need to file an RDA for installation of a beaver deceiver at the Long Pond dam.
 - BD asked that CA start this process for an upcoming ConCom meeting.
- **Discussion: Comprehensive Ponds Study**
 - Full funding for this study was approved by Spring Town Meeting vote on 5/12/14.
 - BD was reminded to contact Bob Hartzel, of Geosyntec, with the news and to begin to set up a time frame for implementation of this study.
- **Committee Updates**
 - TT said that he would be leading a birding walk, on behalf of the Greenway Committee, at 9 a.m. on Saturday, 5/31, meeting at the trailhead on Groton-Harvard Road.
- **Discussion: 31 Central Avenue, John Hillier**
 - Present were John Hillier; Attorney Christopher Lilly, of Lorden, Pastor & Lilly, P.C.; and Professional Engineer John Field, of Nashoba Engineering.
 - Mr. Field said that they were ready to submit an RDA for work to be done at 31 Central Avenue, and are in the process of preparing an NOI for work to be done on a larger adjacent parcel.
 - The RDA will be for construction of a cement equipment pad, to support a generator and other equipment, and a security fence, with hand-dug posts, at the rear of the building, approximately 27 ft. from the drainage stream.
 - At BD's direction, Mr. Field passed the signed RDA to JG for submission to CA on the following day.
 - In response to questions from Mr. Lilly, BD explained that, years ago, the Railroad dug out some of the area to clear a clogged culvert and mitigate track flooding.
 - This was not done with ConCom approval.



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- BD explained ConCom's procedure for this RDA – that when a Public Meeting was officially opened, ConCom would schedule a site walk.
 - BD asked that work planned, for both the RDA and the NOI, be laid out visibly so that ConCom could view both projects simultaneously.
- Mr. Hillier asked about how to go about maintaining a drain filled in by the Railroad.
 - BD said if the drain was on Mr. Hillier's property, ConCom could discuss methods for clearing the drain by hand at the site walk.
- Mr. Hillier asked how to handle flooding in the basement at 31 Central, caused by stormwater runoff from Central Avenue.
 - BD suggested construction of a berm but Mr. Hillier said he would be concerned with this causing flooding and traffic problems on Central Avenue itself.
 - BD said this was then a discussion for Mr. Hillier to have with Ayer DPW.
- BD said that Mr. Hillier's RDA would likely be scheduled for ConCom's 6/12/14 meeting, but that this should be confirmed with CA.
- **7:50 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
 - GB moved to adjourn; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.