



2017 OCT -4 PM 1:47 **Town of Ayer Conservation Commission**

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 * 978-772-8249

Minutes for 9/7/2017

Location: Ayer Town Hall, 2nd Floor

Present: Bill Daniels (BD, Chair), Bonnie Tillotson (BT, Member), Jessica Gugino (JG, Member/Clerk), Kait Rimol, (ICA, Interim Conservation Administrator)

Not Present: George Bacon (GB, Vice-Chair), (Vacancy Member)

APAC taped: No

7:00 PM – Open Meeting

- **Discussion: Review of References for Conservation Administrator Candidates**

- ICA summarized her phone calls seeking candidate references.
- Based on this, ConCom members were unanimous in selecting one of the candidates as a finalist.
- BD will email Town Administrator Robert Pontbriand to see if any other steps need to be taken before making a job offer.

- **Discussion: Eagle Scout Project, Robert Houde**

- ICA reported that Robert met with her earlier in the day.
 - The plan he brought in was a pencil sketch with very little detail.
 - This will be reviewed in more detail during the Public Meeting for the RDA, including trying to ascertain how deep the concrete piers that Mr. Houde installed are.

- **Conservation Commission Field Inspections**

- 1 Barnum Road
 - Previously, as discussed at 8/31 meeting, ICA responded to a resident complaint and found that the owner of the building had constructed a stone barrier between parking lot and wetlands.
 - ConCom had not considered any further action necessary as no threat was posed to the wetlands.
 - However, since then, the owner himself contacted ICA to say he had made a horrible mistake and wanted to make things right.
 - ICA visited the site again.
 - At the other end of the building, out of sight, the owner had also constructed a small sitting area for his tenants that overlooks the wetlands.
 - In doing so, he had also added a good bit of sand, much of which had already gone into the wetlands.
 - BD asked ICA to prepare an Enforcement Order (EO) and have the owner remove as much of the sand as he can.
 - ConCom will schedule a site walk on the property in the future.
- 143 Oak Ridge Drive
 - Homeowner Mark McNulty appeared at ConCom's meeting with an update.
 - An EO for unpermitted work on the shoreline to Flannagan Pond, including vegetation clearing and creation of a beach, was previously issued to Mr. McNulty and ratified at ConCom's 8/24 meeting.
 - ConCom did a site walk on 8/26 and required a number of corrective actions to be taken and ICA visited the site this week to check on compliance.
 - As requested, Mr. McNulty:
 - pulled the sand back from the shoreline at least 4 ft.;
 - installed two lines of straw waddles, at lower and upper edges of sand;



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D. M. C. Capland

- put some new plantings in along the shoreline.
- ICA said the site looks stabilized now, and the waddles worked well to protect the pond during the recent heavy rain event.
 - A more permanent solution for the shoreline is needed, as well as efforts to prevent the new homeowner from trying to re-establish a beach on the shoreline.
 - BD will check his notes for the seed mix used by Ayer Solar II (or I?), as that might be the most appropriate seed to use along the shoreline to reestablish a permanent vegetative buffer.
- Mr. McNulty, who is selling his home, asked ConCom to provide a letter to be handed over at the closing on 10/10, stating the limitations of what can be done within the buffer zone and shoreline for the new homeowner.
 - The letter will also inform the new homeowner that any future earth-work in the back yard of this property will need to be reviewed and approved by ConCom.
- Ayer Solar I
 - BT noted that vegetation is now growing under the solar array panels, and that silt fencing is still in place.
 - Since this array was permitted under an RDA application, what is the procedure for the owner to remove the erosion controls?
 - ICA said another seed mix is to be added, to over-seed, under the panels.
 - BD said ConCom will schedule a future site walk to check on the site and then request the removal of the controls.
- Kohler Place
 - ICA observed a small issue on Lot 4 involving stone dust and this is being attended to.
- **Discussion: ConCom Meeting Calendar for November-December 2017**
 - The original meeting calendar for 2017 had only two meetings scheduled during these two months, on 11/9 and 12/14.
 - Especially with a new Administrator likely to be starting soon, a 5-week gap followed by a 4-week gap between meetings was not considered a good idea.
 - After looking at various dates, working around the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the meeting calendar will be revised to:
 - November 9
 - November 30
 - December 14
 - December 28
- **7:41 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
 - BT moved to adjourn; JG 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Jessica G. Gugino, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved by Conservation Commission: 9/30/2017

Signature Indicating Approval: *Jessica T. Gugino*