



# 2017 NOV -8 PM 1:53// Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall \* One Main Street \* Ayer, MA 01432 \* 978-772-8249 Minutes for 9/28/2017

Location: Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor

<u>Present</u>: Bill Daniels (BD, Chair), George Bacon (GB, Vice-Chair), Bonnie Tillotson (BT, Member), Jessica Gugino (JG, Member/Clerk), Kait Rimol, (ICA, Interim Conservation Administrator), Jo-Anne Crystoff (CA, Conservation Administrator)

APAC taped: Yes

### 7:07 PM - Open Meeting

### · Confirmation of Agenda

- GB moved to confirm the agenda as posted; JG 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Motion approved unanimously.

### Announcements (ICA)

- The Town is updating its union job descriptions.
  - ConCom will use the job description used most recently.
- ICA distributed the new MACC member cards to the commissioners.
- o MACC will be holding an Enforcement Training workshop in Groton on Sat., Nov. 4.
  - Another one will be held in Rockport in March 2018.
- MACC Fall Conference this year will take place on Saturday, October 28, 9 a.m.-4:15 p.m. at The Publick House, Sturbridge, MA.

### Discussion: Farmland Inventory Project, North County Land Trust (NCLT)

- Jassy Bratko, Director of Land Protection for NCLT, provided the results of the Farmland Inventory Project as pertains to the Town of Ayer.
  - Ms. Bratko previously presented the project at ConCom's 2/23/2017 meeting, and acquired Ayer's permission to participate.
  - The project performed an inventory of Ch. 61 lands with 'prime agricultural soils' in a number of regional towns with the goal of providing information to assist each town's efforts to conserve such parcels for farmland use.
- Ayer is not a classic agricultural town but Ms. Bratko noted a growing interest in 'urban' agriculture and community gardens.
- Ms. Bratko provided the Commission with three maps showing results of the Project for Aver.
  - Map One: Ayer Chapter Land and Protected Open Space;
  - Map Two: Ayer Prime Agricultural Soils (also includes Farmland of Statewide Importance and Farmland of Unique Importance);
  - Map Three: Aerial Photo
- Observations:
  - Ayer does not have a lot of protected land or prime agricultural soil land, but does have some parcels of interest for future consideration, including for specialty crops (blueberries, cranberries).
  - Some of the parcels already have development underway or planned (Riley Jayne Farm, Ayer Solar II), but some other areas (near the DPW sewer treatment area, near the hospital, the State Game Farm) should be kept in mind if future opportunities present themselves.



# Milley -6 PM 1955 / Town of Aver Conservation Commitming

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- Public Hearing (cont'd.): Notice of Intent (NOI) James Brook Riverfront Restoration, Ayer Solar I, Rohit Garg / Prometheus Power Group, 0 Rosewood Avenue, MassDEP # 100-0404
  - O Assessor's Map 3, parcels 2 & 50, northeast of the end of Rosewood Avenue.
  - o Kyle Burchard, of GPR, was present on behalf of the applicant.
  - O Ayer Solar I was approved under an RDA on 2/11/2016.
    - A flagging and construction error resulted in the clearing this past winter of nearly an acre of trees inside the 200 ft. buffer zone to James Brook.
    - The NOI and engineered restoration plan (Job 151053, April 2017) proposes restoration of 41,000 sq. ft. of riverfront area on a bluff approximately 20-30 ft. above the brook.
  - The draft OOC has been reviewed, with minor changes suggested by Mr. Burchard and approved by ConCom.
  - o GB moved to issue the final OOC as amended; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
  - o GB moved to close the Public Hearing for 100-0404; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
- Public Hearing (cont'd.): NOI Littleton Road (Rte. 2A) Lot 7, Mill Corp., MassDEP # 100-0406
  - o Assessor's Map 36, parcel 18, between Shaker Road and Bennett's Crossing.
  - o John Boardman, of Places Associates, was present on behalf of the applicant.
  - The draft OOC has been reviewed and agreed upon.
  - o GB moved to issue the final OOC; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
  - GB moved to close the Public Hearing for 100-0406; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
- Public Hearing (cont'd.): NOI Littleton Road (Rte. 2A) Lot 8, Mill Corp., MassDEP # 100-0407
  - O Assessor's Map 36, parcel 18, between Shaker Road and Bennett's Crossing.
  - o The discussion for Lot 8, with Mr. Boardman, mirrored that of the previous Hearing for Lot 7.
  - o The draft OOC has been reviewed and agreed upon.
  - o GB moved to issue the final OOC; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
  - o GB moved to close the Public Hearing for 100-0407; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
- Public Hearing: NOI 231 Snake Hill Road, White Horse Builders, LLC, MassDEP # 100-0412
  - o Assessors Map 21, Parcel 11
  - Rob Oliva, of David E. Ross Associates, and Gary Shimmel, of White Horse Builders, were present.
  - This property is a pre-existing nonconforming 8780 sq, ft, lot on which a dilapidated dwelling currently exists.
    - It abuts a vegetated wetland area as well as waterfront on Sandy Pond, and is within the Petapawag ACEC.
    - The entire lot is within buffer zone to these resource areas.
    - David E. Ross Associates delineated the area in April 2017.
  - A site walk was conducted by BD and JG on 9/9/2017, accompanied by Mr. Oliva and an angry swarm of yellow jackets.



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- One issue that stood out for BD was that the house was closer to the water than the street, because of Zoning requirements.
  - The resource areas therefore takes the brunt of the development impact.
    - o From a conservation perspective, this just did not seem right.
- A second concern was how to prevent yard encroachment onto the resource areas by a future homeowner.
  - Comments solicited from MassDEP did not provide additional clarity.
  - A beach area could be deliberately set aside and constructed such that work in this area was already channeled prior to a sale.
  - In addition, BD raised the possibility of installing landscape features adjacent to the wetland that would look attractive and also would look very costly to tear down, thus discouraging said encroachment.
    - o Mr. Oliva indicated that they could work on a revised plan to that end.
- o Before encouraging Mr. Oliva to perform additional planning work, BD asked for a 'flavor' of the Commission in responding to this application.
  - GB thought it reasonable to see what a revised plan would look like.
  - JG said taking into account hard-to-avoid construction impacts to wetlands and pond plus future encroachment concerns, she would have a hard time saying yes to this application.
  - BT said she was on the fence.
- BD summarized that two commissioners had substantial concerns about impacts and that BD himself was disappointed with the Zoning-vs-Conservation impact discrepancy as well as what could happen with a future homeowner.
  - Mr. Oliva asked ConCom to continue the Public Hearing to allow them to explore options and return with a revision.
- Resident Patrick Flynn, who currently owns the property pending approval of the NOI for the prospective Buyer, said he had been told by the Building Inspector that he could tear down the existing camp and rebuild on the existing footprint.
  - He said the review process had been ongoing since February.
  - BD said only that the Zoning and Planning perspectives were different from the review standards applied by a Conservation Commission.
- GB moved to continue the Public Hearing to 10/12; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Motion approved unanimously.
- Public Meeting: Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) 153 Woodland Way (Lot 70B, Pingry Hill), Ridge View Realty Trust
  - o Assessors Map 36, parcel 112
  - o Steve Mullaney, of S. J. Mullaney Engineering, was present on behalf of the applicant.
  - O A single-family house is planned for construction on this lot, which is adjacent to the beginning of a wetland system.
    - All of the house and driveway is located outside of the buffer zone.
    - Only 977 sq. ft. of buffer zone activity is planned for a portion of the foundation drain, roof drainage dry well, lawn and associated grading.
    - The closest point of this work to the wetlands is 80 ft.
    - No wetland alterations are proposed.
    - The plans submitted show the location of a temporary sediment basin and the proposed erosion control barrier.
    - The lot is very level, with a roughly 7% gentle slope.



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    - The lot is very let A with a roughly 7% certle stope.



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- Because of the minimal amount and type of work in the buffer zone, ConCom agreed that an RDA was the appropriate filing.
- O A site walk was scheduled for 1 p.m. on Saturday, 9/30.
  - Mr. Mullaney said the house corners have been staked and wetland flagging refreshed.
- o GB moved to continue the Public Meeting to 10/12; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Motion approved unanimously.
- Public Hearing: Request for Amendment to Order of Conditions (OOC) 150 Woodland Way (formerly 193, Lot 135B, Pingry Hill), Ridge View Realty Trust, MassDEP # 100-0279
  - o Assessors Map 36, parcel 178
  - o Steve Mullaney, of S. J. Mullaney Engineering, was present on behalf of the applicant.
  - The application amends the existing OOC for construction of a single-family house to accommodate the previous reconfiguration of the layout of Woodland Way (DEP # 100-0393, in 2016) and accompanying modifications to the lot lines from the original design.
    - (See Plan 143 (2 of 3) of 2017 as recorded at the Registry on 2/13/2017; also Plan 2-D-68 attached to DEP # 100-0393)
    - 3935 sq. ft. of buffer zone activity is planned for a portion of the house and foundation drain, roof drainage dry well, lawn and associated grading.
    - The drain discharges approximately 10 ft. from the wetlands.
      - Mr. Mullaney explained the length of the foundation drain is due to elevations on the lot that make it impossible to tie into the street stormwater system.
    - The rest of the buffer zone activity is 50-60 ft. from the wetlands.
    - No wetland alteration is proposed.
    - An existing stone wall crosses the property and will be left intact as a means of discouraging a future homeowner from expanding the yard closer to the resource area.
    - The lot is flat and at-grade construction is planned.
  - o A site walk was scheduled for 1 p.m. on Saturday, 9/30.
    - Mr. Mullaney said the house corners have been staked and wetland flagging refreshed.
  - o GB moved to continue the Public Hearing to 10/12; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
- Public Hearing: Request for Amendment to Order of Conditions (OOC) 166 Woodland Way (formerly 159, Lot 136B, Pingry Hill), Ridge View Realty Trust, MassDEP # 100-0274
  - o Assessors Map 36, parcels 178 & 179
  - o Steve Mullaney, of S. J. Mullaney Engineering, was present on behalf of the applicant.
  - The application amends the existing OOC for construction of a single-family house to accommodate the previous reconfiguration of the layout of Woodland Way (DEP # 100-0393, in 2016) and accompanying modifications to the lot lines from the original design.
    - (See Plan 143 (3 of 3) of 2017 as recorded at the Registry on 2/13/2017; also Plan 2-D-68 attached to DEP # 100-0393)
    - 9143 sq. ft. of buffer zone activity is now planned and includes the house, roof drainage dry well, a portion of a foundation drain, subsurface utilities, a portion of the driveway, lawn and associated grading.
    - The closest point of work to the wetlands is approximately 15 ft.
    - No wetland alteration is proposed.
    - A 3 ft. high retaining wall, 37 ft. in length, is planned at the back of the lot.
      - A small amount of fill will be needed for the wall.



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- At-grade construction is planned.
- A double row of erosion controls will be used.
- o A site walk was scheduled for 1 p.m. on Saturday, 9/30.
  - Mr. Mullaney said the house corners have been staked and wetland flagging refreshed.
- o GB moved to continue the Public Hearing to 10/12; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Motion approved unanimously.

# • Public Hearing: Request for Amendment to Order of Conditions (OOC) – 186 Woodland Way (formerly 123, Lot 137B, Pingry Hill), Ridge View Realty Trust, MassDEP # 100-0280

- o Assessors Map 36, parcel 180
- o Steve Mullaney, of S. J. Mullaney Engineering, was present on behalf of the applicant.
- o The application amends the existing OOC for construction of a single-family house to accommodate the previous reconfiguration of the layout of Woodland Way (DEP # 100-0393, in 2016) and accompanying modifications to the lot lines from the original design.
  - (See Plan 143 (3 of 3) of 2017 as recorded at the Registry on 2/13/2017; also Plan 2-D-68 attached to DEP # 100-0393)
  - 5225 sq. ft. of buffer zone activity is now planned and includes most of the house, a portion of the driveway, lawn and associated grading.
  - No roof drains are needed for this house.
  - The closest point of work to the wetlands is approximately 41 ft.
  - A stormwater basin nearby is under construction.
    - Wetland alteration for this has already occurred and replication is underway elsewhere in the development.
  - At-grade construction is planned.
- O A site walk was scheduled for 1 p.m. on Saturday, 9/30.
  - Mr. Mullaney said the house corners have been staked and wetland flagging refreshed.
- o GB moved to continue the Public Hearing to 10/12; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Motion approved unanimously.

### Public Hearing: NOI – 169 Woodland Way (Lot 71A, Pingry Hill), Ridge View Realty Trust, MassDEP # 100-0413

- o Assessors Map 36, parcels 112 & 113
- Steve Mullaney, of S. J. Mullaney Engineering, was present on behalf of the applicant.
  - 10,336 sq. ft. of buffer zone activity is planned and includes the house, a portion of the driveway, foundation drain, roof drainage dry well, subsurface utilities, lawn and associated grading.
  - A walk-out basement in the back is planned.
  - The closest point of work to the wetlands is 9 ft.
  - No alteration of wetlands is proposed.
  - A 110 ft. long boulder line is proposed to prevent future expansion of the yard.
    - The closest distance from the boulder line to the foundation of the house is 25 ft.
  - A double-row of erosion controls will be employed during construction.
- o Repositioning the house to the left or changing its angle were not viable, according to Mr. Mullaney.
  - Moving the house to the left would require new grading on an adjacent lot.
  - Turning the house would prevent straight driveway access from the street to the garage, which the developer does not like



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  - GB moved to continue the Public Heading to 1012, FT 2<sup>rd</sup>.
    - Motion approved master audit.
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    - Assessors Vien 36, partoi 180
    - Stove Mullandy, of S. J. Mullands, Producednik, was present on behalf of the supplicant
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- O A site walk was scheduled for 1 p.m. on Saturday, 9/30.
  - Mr. Mullaney said the house corners have been staked and wetland flagging refreshed.
- GB moved to continue the Public Hearing to 10/12; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Motion approved unanimously.

### Public Hearing: NOI – 207 Woodland Way (Lot 74A, Pingry Hill), Ridge View Realty Trust, MassDEP # 100-0414

- o Assessors Map 36, parcels 115 & 116
- Steve Mullaney, of S. J. Mullaney Engineering, was present on behalf of the applicant.
  - 6521 sq. ft. of buffer zone activity is planned and includes a portion of the house, driveway, subsurface utilities, foundation drain, lawn and associated grading.
  - The closest point of work to the wetlands is 27 ft.
  - No alteration of wetlands is proposed.
  - All of the buffer zone work is in the front of the lot, so moving the house further back from the road would have no impact on reducing buffer zone work.
  - An existing stone wall is located at the back of the property.
  - As a stormwater basin in the back is under construction, a double-row of erosion controls has already been put in place.
    - When the basin is complete, it will be surrounded by a hedgerow, per Planning Board requirement.
  - A walk-out basement in the back is planned.
- o A site walk was scheduled for 1 p.m. on Saturday, 9/30.
  - Mr. Mullaney said the house corners have been staked and wetland flagging refreshed.
- GB moved to continue the Public Hearing to 10/12; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Motion approved unanimously.

#### Discussion: Pingry Hill Miscellany

- Steve Mullaney shared with ConCom the gist of an email he received from Denise Child, MassDEP, regarding a query re an old OOC.
  - Unless DEP holds a Superceding OOC, they do not keep application material or issued OOCs beyond 30 days.
- For discussion at a future meeting, BD asked CA to talk to Cindy Knox (IT) or Carly Antonellis regarding how much ConCom should charge to print OOC copies in response to Freedom of Information Act enquiries.

#### Discussion: Enforcement Order – 1 Barnum Road

- O Prit Patel, the owner of 1 Barnum Road, was present and has been both forthcoming and cooperative with the Commission.
- o The sand that had been used to create a 'beach' at the edge of the wetlands has been removed.
  - ICA has inspected the site and found it now in good shape.
- o BD said the Commission appreciated Mr. Patel coming forward and self-correcting.
  - As a result, the Commission decided there was no need to ratify the Enforcement Order or take any other action.
- o Mr. Patel had a question about using some free woodchips as mulch to improve a section.
  - BD asked ICA and CA to check this out on the following Tuesday (10/3).

### Discussion: Enforcement Order – 143 Oak Ridge Drive, Mark & Laura McNulty



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  - Prit Parel, the owner. At the arm Pood was present and has been book for recoming and cooperative with the Commission.
  - The sand that had love a sad to country through at the edge of the wallands has been removed.
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- o ICA provided Mr. McNulty with information on an appropriate seed mix and wetland shrubs to use along the shoreline.
- o ICA circulated a draft of the letter that Mr. McNulty will provide to the new homeowner at the closing of the sale.
  - The letter provides background and details as to what and is not permissible re the Wetland Protection Act on this lot abutting Flannagan Pond.
  - Basically, the beach that is now there can be left the way it is but cannot be expanded.
  - The letter adds that the Commission will look forward to working with the homeowner should he/she plan any ground-disturbing activity in the yard at some point in the future.

### Discussion: Request for Certificate of Compliance (COC) – Catania Spagna, 1 Nemco Way, MassDEP # 100-0383

- Everything is all set for the issuance of a COC except for the detail of having a signed drawing from the engineer attesting to the completion of the project according to the approved plans.
- This being a commercial project, the Commission felt this detail needs to be fulfilled before signing a COC.

### Discussion: Request for Partial Certificate of Compliance (PCOC) – 8 Bennett's Crossing (Lot 12), Mass DEP # 100-0074

- o This PCOC request is related to the upcoming sale of the house.
- o ICA inspected and saw no problems.
- o GB moved to issue and sign a PCOC for 100-0074; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Motion approved unanimously.

#### Conservation Commission – Field Inspections

- o Pingry Hill
  - No issues with a new detention basin under construction.
- o The Willows
  - Construction is proceeding on the final triplex unit.
  - JG attended a site walk on 9/9 with George Gallagher and Dr. Desheng Wang to review the plans for two mitigation areas.
    - At that time, the work was scheduled to be done at the end of the following week (week of Sept. 11) or beginning of the next week (week of Sept. 18).
    - ICA said that thus far no work has yet begun.
    - BD asked ICA and CA to look into this.
- o Nashua Street Extension
  - The detention basin has been completed and the area seeded.
  - The site looks good.
- Kohler Place
  - Things are slowing down here as the project nears completion.
  - A. J. Bergin will be reminded that ConCom would like, this fall, to inspect whatever walking path is being used to reach the pond across the wetlands.
- Wright Road Cross-Country Water Main (from Kohler Place to Sandy Pond Road, DPW project)
  - A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for the first week in October.
  - Erosion controls and turtle protection controls will need to be installed and inspected.
- Riley Jayne Farm



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  - - Riley Jayne Parm



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- There have been issues to the left of the road as you enter the development site.
- ICA said that silt has been scooped out, and erosion controls corrected.
- Ayer Solar I/James Brook Restoration Area
  - ICA said that plans were to start work on the replication area and to seed under the panel array in the next week or so.
    - ConCom is supposed to be notified when this work begins.
- o 2 Sandy Way
  - ICA has met with the homeowner, Mr. McGuane, about reports from residents that someone has been hand-pulling weeds along the shoreline.
    - On site, ICA observed that wetland soils were being pulled out as well and told the homeowner this had to stop.
    - In addition, she asked the homeowner to remove a tarp placed over the cattails in order to kill them.
  - Mr. McGuane has now filed an RDA to review work he would like to do to gain access to the pond.
    - The RDA will be on ConCom's 10/12 agenda.
- Robert Houde, Eagle Scout Project
  - ICA said Mr. Houde has turned in an RDA but did not include a site plan map with any detail other than a very informal sketch.
  - BD asked ICA and CA to contact Cal Goldsmith, of Goldsmith, Prest & Ringwall, for information on the design since Mr. Houde had consulted him for advice.

### Accounts Payable

- Solitude Lake Management: \$32,500
  - In February (2/14/2017), ConCom selected Solitude's proposal, at \$61,500, for weed treatment of Sandy, Flannagan, and Pine Meadow ponds.
  - Before paying this latest invoice, BD asked CA to research the RFP and original proposal so that ConCom can assess how much of the work has been done and how much has yet to be done.
- BSC Group: \$6080, for services rendered excellently by Kait Rimol, ICA, from 7/10 8/17/2017.
  - GB moved to approve payment of \$6080 to BSC Group; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
- o Lowell Sun: \$626.00, legal ads for CA Job Posting.
  - This is ConCom's share of a larger bill, \$1844, that includes other job postings (Administrative Coordinator, Town Planner).
  - GB moved to approve payment of \$626 to the Lowell Sun; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
- o Lowell Sun: \$86.04, legal ad for 231 Snake Hill Road (100-0412, White Horse Builders).
  - BD asked CA to talk to Martha in Accounting to ensure that ConCom is up-to-date in paying bills for legal ads from the rotating fund.
  - GB moved to approve payment of \$86.04 to the Lowell Sun; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.

### Approval of Meeting Minutes

o GB moved to accept the minutes for 8/24/2017 as written; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.



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    - GB moved to approve provincing of Shalas to the Lowelt Sun; BE 2<sup>th</sup>.
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J. OB moved to accept the recover for STA-2017 in very car BT 2<sup>nd</sup>



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- Motion approved unanimously.
- GB moved to accept the minutes for 8/31/2017 as written; BT  $2^{nd}$ .
  - Motion approved unanimously.
- o BT moved to accept the minutes for 9/7/2017 as written; JG 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Motion approved 3-0 (GB abstained, not having been present).
- 9:55 PM Adjourn Meeting
  - o GB moved to adjourn; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Jessica G. Gugino, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved by Conser	rvation Commission:	10/12/2017	
Signature Indicating Approval:	( ) rines	I. Julio	
		<u> </u>	