



## **Town of Ayer Conservation Commission**

Town Hall \* One Main Street \* Ayer, MA01432 \* 978-772-8218 \* 978-772-3017(fax)

Minutes for **11/20/08** – **Approved 12/18/08**

Location: Ayer Town Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room

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

APAC taped: Yes

**7:00 PM**

- **Meeting Minutes Approval**
  - 11/06/08 – no amendments.
    - GB moved to approve 11/06/08 minutes, as written; JG 2<sup>nd</sup>.
      - Motion approved unanimously.
  - 10/23/08 – Add statement that the Commission does not plan to pursue an RMP due to lack of funding available.
    - JG moved to approve 10/23/08 minutes, as amended; GB 2<sup>nd</sup>.
      - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Public Hearing (cont'd): RDA – Temporary Dock, 2 Wright Road**
  - Keith Henderson presented his application for temporary dock on Sandy Pond.
  - Dock is 120 square feet; constructed of aluminum and wood.
  - Frontage includes rock wall, remnant concrete, a “beach” area, and some grass.
    - These features are not shown on the current sketch.
  - Mr. Henderson will revise the sketch plan to show the frontage features.
  - GB moved to continue hearing to 12/04/08; DB 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
  - Mr. Henderson provided a check to cover cost of legal ad.
- **Public Hearing (cont'd): RDA – Temporary Dock, 8 Ledge way**
  - Applicant is not present.
  - DB moved to continue hearing to 12/04/08; JG 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Accounts Payable**
  - Grafax: \$37.00 for CA’s business cards.
    - GB moved to approve payment of the Grafax bill; TT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
      - Motion approved unanimously.
  - Lowell Sun: \$214.40 for various legal ads.
    - Ads were for: NOI – Icehouse Dam; RDA – 25 Wright Rd; RDA – 8 Ledge way; RDA – 2 Wright Rd.
    - All of the above have submitted checks to CA.
    - JG moved to approve payment of Lowell Sun bill; GB 2<sup>nd</sup>.
      - Motion approved unanimously.



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- **Announcements**

- Letter from DEP re: Ridgeview Heights (Pingry Hill) Subdivision
  - DEP Superseding Order of Conditions was automatically withdrawn due to lapse in 180-day period.
  - CA will follow up with Phil Nadeau, DEP, for more info.
- Memo & Plans re: Eagle's Nest Subdivision proposal before the Planning Board.
  - Plan calls for two new homes, plus improvements to existing home, off Central Avenue near Groveland Street.
  - The project appears to include alteration of steep slopes within buffer zone of Flannagan Pond.
  - Could also be within ACEC and NHESP Habitat boundaries.
    - CA will check the maps in the office.

- **Public Meeting: Preliminary Draft Community Preservation Plan**

- Jennifer Goldson, JMG Planning, is updating the Community Preservation Plan for Ayer's CPA Committee.
- Ms. Goldson presented information about the current draft.
- Ayer voters approved a 1% property tax surcharge for CPA funding in 2001.
  - The state matches roughly 30% for those towns in the 1% tax surcharge category.
  - Towns with higher funding level, i.e. 3% tax surcharge, get a higher percentage of matching state funds.
- To date, Ayer has accumulated roughly \$2 million in total CPA funds.
  - Roughly half of this has already been obligated for various projects relating to historic preservation, recreation, and community housing.
  - So far, no projects relating to open space acquisition have been funded.
- Ms. Goldson projects CPA funds at approximately \$2.7 million, over the next five years.
- Ms. Goldson facilitated a brainstorming session to develop CPA goals specific to the Commission's interests.

- **Public Meeting: COC – 109 Central Avenue (DEP #100-085)**

- Ayer Moving & Storage facility is requesting a Certificate of Compliance for construction of an addition to their building.
  - The permit was issued 04/14/89.
- CA identified the following issues during her site visit:
  - Project engineer needs to verify that the current site conditions are consistent with the original plan.
  - Boulders and debris have been dumped into the adjacent brook. Applicant needs to restore the brook and present an acceptable snow/debris management plan.
- CA to follow up.

- **Updates**

- Stratton Hill: Moulton has yet to submit a new NOI application.
- Hydroseeding Violation Notice: pending (BD).



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- Pond Weed Control: Received letter from ACT (weed control contractor) re: status of weeds at Sandy and Flannagan Pond.
  - ACT conducted a site visit 10/10/08, with CA and Shaun Suhoski.
  - Dominic Meringolo summarized their observations in the letter.
  - BD sent a brief reply to ACT.
  - Commission needs to review ACT's contract to see if they have met all treatment and reporting requirements.
  - Commission also needs to research availability of grant funding, such as DCR's Lakes & Ponds program, to assist with pond management.
  - BD: We have enough remaining funds to conduct spot treatment at Town Beach.
- CA holiday work schedule: Will most likely work Mon-Tues during the upcoming holiday weeks.
  - CA will post her holiday office schedule.
- Ch. 91 Dock Permits
  - CA is drafting letter to residents, to be sent in advance of workshop on 12/10/08.
  - CA recommends that applicants be asked to come prepared with unique DEP transmittal number, suitable plan drawing, copies of forms, checks for filing fees, etc.
- File Organization
  - Janet B. is almost done with organization of paper files – mostly large files remain.
  - Next step: work on Excel spreadsheet.
- Balch Dam blockage: CA will follow up with Shaun S. and Fire Chief Pedrazzi to ensure prompt removal of the debris blocking the dam.
  - Pond lowering has been impeded by the debris.
- JG: Attended the MACC Fundamentals Conference.
  - GB motioned to reimburse JG for \$90.00 registration fee; TT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
- JG: A new Ayer Local group has been formed by Caroline McCreary.
- GB: Attended MACC Fall Conference.
  - DB motioned to reimburse GB for \$90.00 registration fee; JG 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
- DB: Ridgeview Heights – request for COC on DEP Superseding Order.
  - DB reiterated his objections to the COC request from Crabtree Development (originally expressed via email).
- DB: Sent an email with photos documenting the improper piling of snow at 43 West Main Street by DPW snowplows. The stockpile area is adjacent to wetland resource area.
- BD: Elizabeth Estates
  - BD noticed significant problems with erosion and subsidence at the site.
  - CA will follow up with developer Bob Prescott.
- **Adjourn (11:00 PM)**
  - GB moved to adjourn; JG 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.