



Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

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

Minutes for **02/26/09** – **Approved 03/12/09**

Location: Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor

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

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

APAC taped: Yes

7:15 PM

- **Public Meeting: RDA – Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife), Northeast District**
 - Applicants: Patricia Huckery, Northeast District Manager; and Terrance Smith, engineer with Department of Fish & Game's Office of Fishing & Boating Access.
 - The RDA is for relocation of the MassWildlife Northeast District to the former state game farm property on Groton Shirley Road in Ayer. Relocation is necessary due to unhealthy conditions in the current office building in Acton.
 - The proposed District Office would be located within the current lawn/field area and would upgrade the existing retention basin to meet the new stormwater infiltration standards.
 - Plan includes two phases:
 - Phase 1 includes construction of new office building, sidewalks, parking lot (to be paved if funds are available), and stormwater system.
 - Phase 2 includes construction of a garage.
 - The office would make use of the existing private drinking water well.
 - A small portion (160 square feet) of the retention basin is within the 100-year flood plain; no other impacts to resource areas or buffer zones are proposed.
 - Wetlands were delineated by Ms. Huckery and verified by CA during site visit.
 - The wetland buffer zone will be allowed to revegetate naturally. DFW will remove invasive plant species such as buckthorn, as needed.
 - The building design incorporates some passive solar heating, but will also use forced air.
 - Project has received all other approvals (Planning Board, MEPA, etc.)
 - Emergency funds to relocate the office were made available by the state, but need to be used this fiscal year (i.e. office needs to be built by 6/30/09).
 - DB asked if the parking lot could remain unpaved.
 - Mr. Smith said the limited amount of funding might preclude paving of the parking area. In such case, DFW would consider leaving the lot unpaved (gravel).
 - Some pavement might be needed to meet ADA access requirements.
 - DB moved to issue a Negative Determination; GB 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
 - JG and BD will coordinate notarization and copying of the signed form.
 - Ms. Huckery and Mr. Smith thanked CA for her assistance and professionalism.

- **Stormwater Management Update**
 - BD spoke with new DPW Superintendent, Dan Nason, about stormwater bylaw implementation.
 - Mr. Nason and CA will begin implementing the bylaw in March.



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- **Discussion: Conservation Restriction (CR) Guidelines and Stewardship Considerations**
 - BD was approached by Steve Smith re: Autumn Ridge CR (Smith family land).
 - Mr. Smith would like to assume stewardship the CR land.
 - Land purchase through the CPC
 - Laurie Nehring notified Town boards about potential sale of Hudlin property (6 acres) near Cambridge & High Streets.
 - DB indicated the parcel abuts three acres of Town-owned land.
 - CPC will discuss at their next meeting, 3/4/09.
 - Sandy Pond 3 CR
 - Status of the CR for Sandy Pond 3 is uncertain.
 - Pondview CR
 - Does Commission have copy of the signed CR?
 - Need to follow up with NHESP re: incomplete turtle nesting area.
 - Orion Park CR
 - Does Commission have copy of the signed CR?
- **Announcements & Updates**
 - Shaun S. provided a copy of memo to BOS re: timeline for new budgets.
 - March 3 – Shaun presents draft budget to BOS.
 - March 24 – BOS holds public hearing re: FY10 budget.
 - April 7 – deadline for ATM warrants.
 - The Willows
 - Kevin Hardiman of David E. Ross Associates, emailed a memo explaining the cause of excessive runoff and siltation from The Willows development.
 - The memo also described measures taken to ensure effective stormwater controls in the future, and outlined a plan to work with DPW to clean and maintain catch basins along Willow Road.
- **Commission Goals for 2009**
 - Spring site visits to OOC and CR sites
 - To be discussed next meeting.
 - DB: Records tracking.
 - TT: Vernal pool certification.
 - Potential pools on conservation land, Ridgeview Heights, Stratton Hill.
 - DB: Pond water quality testing.
 - Check with DPW, BOH, NRWA.
 - DB: Public access to ponds (car top boating access).
 - BD: Bylaw modification/improvement.
 - JG: Public outreach/education.
 - Upgrade webpage content.
 - New Residents Fair – 3/28/09.
 - DB suggested putting together a digital photo slideshow.
 - GB: Policies & Procedures



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- **Member Issues**

- JG: Pond access easements and joint Chapter 91 Licenses.
 - Homeowners seeking to lock in their right to have a dock (and to transfer said right to future owners) need to apply individually for a Chapter 91 license.
 - Who is responsible for maintenance of a retaining wall at the end of a Town road?
- GB: Eagles Nest Estates (proposed subdivision)
 - Conservation easements are not permanent – they typically expire after 30 years.
- GB: Special Town Meeting is on Monday, 3/2/09.
- DB: Photographic documentation of project sites (before and after).
- BD: MACC conference – registration fee reimbursement.
 - Those attending the conference should email their receipts to CA for processing.

- **Adjourn (9:15 PM)**

- GB moved to adjourn; DB 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.