



## **Town of Ayer Conservation Commission**

Town Hall \* One Main Street \* Ayer, MA01432 \* 978-772-8249 \* 978-772-8208 (fax)

Minutes for **05/28/09** – **Approved 06/11/09**

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

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

**7:15 PM**

- **Public Meeting: RDA – Temporary Dock License (Ch. 91), 0 Sandy Pond Road**
  - Gail Januskiewicz presented an RDA for Chapter 91 Dock License at 0 Sandy Pond Road (Map 22, Lot 25).
  - The existing site consists of stairs and retaining walls made of railroad ties and telephone poles, a concrete slab from a previous dock, and a small sitting area.
  - The application also includes a temporary aluminum dock (12x8 feet) and aluminum pier (8x4 feet).
  - GB moved to issue Positive Determination with Conditions (NOI not required); DB 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
  
- **Announcements**
  - Plow Shop Pond Dam
    - Received copy of memo from GPR (engineers for G.V. Moore) to DCR Office of Dam Safety re: Certificate of Non-compliance.
    - The dam remains in poor condition.
    - G.V. Moore does not plan to repair the dam (will stabilize only).
  - Ch. 43D Grant Extension
    - Received copy of memo from Shaun Suhoski, Town Administrator, announcing extension of the Town's grant for zoning bylaw revisions and MUNIS permit tracking software.
  - Montachusett Regional Planning Commission
    - MRPC received a grant from the EPA for brownfield redevelopment.
    - MRPC is seeking nominations of potential sites from each town in the region.
    - Commission discussed possible sites in Ayer, including the former tannery on Grove Pond and the former video rental store on W. Main Street.
    - Commission should consult Board of Health for additional information about sites.
    - The nomination deadline was not listed in the memo.
  
- **Discussion: Pond View Estates**
  - CA reported that the walking trail is no longer flooded.
  - Someone had removed beaver debris from the culvert (without a permit).
  - NHESP informed CA that Hicks' biologist is required to submit a turtle nesting report every three years; the next report is due in October.
  - Hicks appears to be rushing toward full transfer of ownership responsibilities to the homeowners association. The Hicks family wants to dissolve the Trust.
  - BD suggested adding Pond View Estates to the next meeting agenda for discussion of all the outstanding issues – dock licenses, as-built plans, CR map, turtle nesting, maintenance, etc.



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- CA mentioned that a new resident at Pond View has volunteered to help CA with some of the administrative tasks in the office.
  
- **Updates**
  - Ridgeview Heights (Pingry Hill)
    - CA will visit site tomorrow to check on repair/restoration work, and also inspect the basin and wetlands near Littleton Road.
    - BD said the Commission should consider seeking enforcement help from DEP.
    - DB recommended the Commission be proactive with BOS when the Selectmen discuss the potential gifts of land from Crabtree.
      - DB will draft a letter to submit to BOS.
  - Special Conditions Template
    - CA emailed revised draft to Commissioners for review, dated 5/26/09.
    - Comments to CA should be provided by 7/1/09.
      - JG asked about a requirement to re-flag wetlands every 2 or 3 years.
      - CA will add a wetland re-flagging requirement under General Conditions.
  - Ch. 91
    - CA and JG have been working with applicants to keep the filing process on track.
    - CA would like to have all Ch. 91 applications submitted by October.
  - Elizabeth Estates
    - BD said the curbing and utilities had been completed since the last site walk.
    - BD suggested CA contact Bob Prescott for the latest updates.
  - PanAm/Norfolk Southern – Auto Unloading Facility (former San-Vel site)
    - CA is planning to visit the site with Rick Linde of DPW to see the work underway.
    - Citizens of Ayer and Littleton are planning an event to raise awareness of the threat to our drinking water aquifer posed by the construction.
      - The event is Friday from 5-7 PM, at the rotary.
      - Senator Jamie Eldridge is scheduled to attend.
  - Hedgeway Street – Chickens
    - Bob Williams and Sue Tordella-Williams of Hedgeway Street are getting a permit from Board of Health to keep chickens in their yard, which is within 100 feet of Sandy Pond.
    - They will also file an RDA.
  - Ayer Moving & Storage, Central Avenue
    - Boulders along the brook have been removed.
    - CA will send letter to the owners requiring that the boulders be replaced.
  
- **Member Updates**
  - DB: Asked if the MUNIS tracking software will be of any value to Commission.
    - CA will try out the test version of the software.
  - DB: MassWildlife are no longer planning to build new offices at the Game Farm.
    - Instead they will purchase and move into the Garrison property on Route 2A.
  - DB: Potential CPA Land Purchase – Oak Ridge Drive



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- Would like official endorsement from Commission to explore the feasibility of a CPA land purchase for conservation.
- DB: Potential Land Transfer to Town
  - A parcel on Bennetts Brook could become property of the Town due to tax issues.
  - The land may have conservation value.
- **10:15 PM – Adjourn**
  - GB moved to adjourn, JG 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.