

Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 * 978-772-8249 * 978-772-8208 (fax)

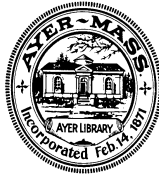
Minutes for **05/27/10** – **Approved 09/09/10**

Location: Town Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room

Members present: Bill Daniels (BD, Chair), Dave Bodurtha (DB, Vice-Chair), Takashi Tada (TT, Clerk), George Bacon (GB), Jess Gugino (JG), Becky DaSilva-Conde (Conservation Administrator)
APAC taped: No

7:15 PM – Open Meeting

- **Agenda Modification**
 - Move General Business to end
- **Discussion (cont'd): Oak Ridge Loop Trail – Pine Meadow Conservation Land**
 - Steve Smith of Ayer Greenway Committee discussed the revised route of the new Oak Ridge Loop Trail.
 - Trailhead is on Oak Ridge Drive, on the newly acquired parcel (formerly Tooker) of the Pine Meadow Conservation Land.
 - The loop trail is roughly 1 mile long and partially coincides with the existing Science Trail.
 - Mr. Smith presented an aerial photo overlay of the proposed route.
 - BD asked if there was enough space at the trailhead for parking. A low-impact parking area would be ideal.
 - The owner of the small piece of land across the road from trailhead is not known.
 - BD also asked about the relatively steep slope above the road, and whether water bars or other erosion control features are needed.
 - Mr. Smith said there is a switchback on the steepest part of the slope, and the Greenway Committee can add water bars or a bench-cut if necessary. But he did not think the additional measures would be needed.
 - GB moved to approve the Oak Ridge Loop Trail; JG 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Public Hearing (cont'd): NOI – Stratton Hill Subdivision (DEP #100-0333)**
 - Dave Moulton, developer, and Russ Wilson, engineer, discussed their application.
 - DB summarized the site walk that was conducted to review the reflagged wetlands.
 - There are no major changes to the wetland delineations.
 - JG confirmed that the hay bale line has been extended around the detention basins.
 - JG also suggested that the old hay bale/silt fence along the access road to Lond Pond Dam could be removed.
 - Mr. Moulton said his attorney, Bob Collins, would contact CA about the proposed transfer of four lots to the Town.
 - DB asked if there is an Operations & Maintenance Plan for the stormwater system.
 - Mr. Moulton was not sure if the O&M Plan had been finalized.
 - Mr. Moulton discussed putting in a temporary cul-de-sac for the first phase of home construction (Lots 16-21) rather than completing the entire subdivision road at once.
 - Commission requested plan revisions to include:

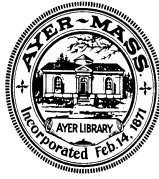


Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 * 978-772-8249 * 978-772-8208 (fax)

Minutes for **05/27/10** – **Approved 09/09/10**

- Installation of check dams to alleviate stormwater runoff issues along Wright Road and Standish Avenue.
- Phase 1 cul-de-sac (temporary) with stormwater (to be reviewed/approved by Planning Board and DPW)
- Revision dates.
- Copy of letter from NHESP accepting the plan revisions.
- Stormwater O&M Plan
- GB moved to continue the hearing to 6/10/10; JG 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Public Meeting: RDA – Keeping of Fowl, 121 Oak Ridge Drive**
 - Mark Miller of 121 Oak Ridge Drive presented a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for the keeping of up to 15 chickens/turkeys.
 - Board of Health rejected his application to keep geese also.
 - Mr. Miller provided a sketch plan of his lot with proposed coop and run area.
 - Distance to Flannagan Pond is roughly 70 feet from the fowl area.
 - The area is relatively flat, existing lawn. Beyond the lawn there is a naturally vegetated slope to the pond.
 - The chickens will be free to roam to edge of pond.
 - The house roof is guttered with corner downspouts.
 - CA visited the site and had no major concerns re: runoff of fecal matter into pond.
 - BD asked about a waste management plan.
 - BD suggested seeking expert opinion (eg. MassWildlife) on risk of chicken poop in pond.
 - Recommended that Mr. Miller revise his sketch with a more accurate scale, a designated manure/compost area, topographic break line (top of slope), and assessor map information.
 - GB moved to continue public meeting to 6/10/10; JG 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Discussion: Conservation Restriction / Land Donation – Sandy Pond Investment Trust**
 - Ed Cornellier discussed the future disposition of land to be placed under Conservation Restriction (CR) as part of the proposed Kohler Place subdivision, at the end of Wright Road.
 - The subdivision has been approved by Planning Board.
 - The CR will consist of 22± acres, primarily wetlands, east of Sandy Pond. Public access will be limited to canoe/kayak from Sandy Pond.
 - Mr. Cornellier asked Commission if it would be interested in holding the CR, or possibly accepting the land as an outright donation.
 - Benefits to the Town of accepting the land were not clear, given lack of access.
 - Acceptance of the land would require affirmative vote at Town Meeting.
 - Project is located in rare species habitat. Review by Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) will be required, although preliminary discussions have taken place.

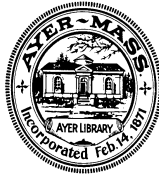


Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 * 978-772-8249 * 978-772-8208 (fax)

Minutes for **05/27/10** – **Approved 09/09/10**

- Mr. Cornellier would like to restart the application process for wetlands and NHESP, and begin construction this fall.
- The wetland flagging was updated earlier this year.
- DB raised a question about the wetlands area being a perennial stream that connects Lower Long Pond and Sandy Pond.
 - It is not shown as a stream on the USGS topographical map.
- On a separate issue, Mr. Cornellier also asked if he could remove the hay bales after his shed along Sandy Pond Road is installed (previously approved via RDA application).
 - CA and BD told Mr. Cornellier he could remove the hay bales after installation.
- **Announcements**
 - NRWA Program: Accepting Conservation Restrictions
 - DB will attend.
 - 25-D Westford Road – Ayer Oil Co.
 - Planning Board sent memo notifying of approval of Ayer Oil Co.'s oil storage facilities.
 - Project requires review from Commission because it is located within the Zone 2 aquifer district.
 - CA will contact Hancock Associates for more information.
 - Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Plan is available.
 - PanAm Rail provided notification of herbicide application along railroad tracks.
- **Meeting Minutes Approval**
 - 4/8/10: minor corrections.
 - JG moved to approve 4/8/10 minutes, as amended; DB 2nd.
 - Motion approved 4 – 0 (GB abstained).
 - 4/22/10: no edits.
 - JG moved to approve 4/22/10 minutes, as written; GB 2nd.
 - Motion approved 4 – 0 (BD abstained).
- **Budget Updates**
 - CA budget lumped in with Planning & Development.
 - DB asked who CA reports to, under the current structure.
 - BD will ask BOS (Rick Gilles, Chair) to add to the Town Administrator's job description.
 - Town Administrator should supervise the CA position.
 - Conference attendance and membership dues were cut from the budget.
 - DB would like to request that the Conservation Commission be included in any future discussions about Town's budget.
 - BD authorized DB to make request to FinCom.
- **Weed Control RFP**
 - CA received notice of interest from a third company (no response from Lycott or ACT).



Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 * 978-772-8249 * 978-772-8208 (fax)

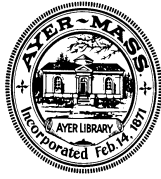
Minutes for **05/27/10** – **Approved 09/09/10**

- **CA Updates**

- MBCR Rail Upgrade Project
 - Mike Turgeon will do abutter notifications only for areas where work is planned.
- Orion Park – Conservation Restriction
 - Mr. Widmeyer wanted to know if the CR could be named in honor of his mother.
 - BD suggested adding Ms. Widmeyer's name to the CR boundary signs.
- Stormwater Updates
 - Stormwater Committee will reconvene soon.
 - DPW received stormwater outreach materials (posters and DVD).
 - Budget for CA's stormwater duties remains uncertain.
- FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM)
 - FIRM maps have been revised, but the Town is out of compliance.
 - Requires approval of maps at Town Meeting.
 - CA will contact BOS to move the issue forward.
- Pond Abutter mailings
 - DB is working to finalize the abutters list
- Siltation to Bennetts Brook – Ridgeview/Pingry Hill
 - DB sent email reply to complaint from resident re: siltation to Bennetts Brook, apparently emanating from the Ridgeview/Pingry Hill development.
 - Hay bales should be required per the Planning Board.
 - Catch basins are blocked off pending maintenance.
- Pond View
 - Homeowners Assoc. wants to have a beaver deceiver installed at the culvert.
 - CA told the Assoc. that it might require filing of NOI and review by NHESP for endangered species issues.
- Park Street flooding
 - Jamie Gibbons brought up the flooding concerns previously.
 - DB might have some evidence of wetland filling by the business condos, but more information is needed.

- **Member Issues/Updates**

- DB: Violations/Enforcement Orders
 - Too many wetlands violations go unreported and unsanctioned.
 - DB would like to establish better procedures for reporting and enforcement, and have other members take on some of the responsibility.
 - BD agreed that it is significant task to keep up with all violations, but prefers to have CA take the lead.
 - Must allow for CA to devote some of her schedule to violations.
- BD: Taking care of Commission business
 - BD would like future meeting agendas to place Commission business at the beginning of the schedule, to be followed by other business.
- BD: Elizabeth Estates



Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 * 978-772-8249 * 978-772-8208 (fax)

Minutes for **05/27/10** – **Approved 09/09/10**

- Erosion control situation at Elizabeth Estates needs to be addressed.
- GB: The Willows (Willow Road)
 - GB reminded the Commission of wetland and erosion issues to be reviewed at The Willows.
- **10:50 – Adjourn Meeting**
 - JG moved to adjourn; GB 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.