

Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

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

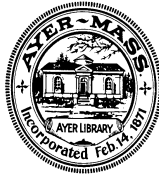
Minutes for **07/08/10** – **Approved 11/18/10**

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 (CA, Conservation Administrator)
APAC taped: Yes

7:10 PM – Open Meeting

- **Discussion: CDBG Grant Wish List**
 - Dave Maher, Economic Development Director
 - Mr. Maher presented a brief survey questionnaire designed to prioritize grant funding proposals under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.
 - The survey is for all Town residents, employees, and boards.
 - The goal is to have at least 10% of the Town respond to the survey.
 - The survey can be completed online.
 - Deadline for return of the surveys to Mr. Maher is two weeks.
- **Public Hearing (cont'd): NOI – Stratton Hill Subdivision (DEP #100-0333)**
 - Dave Moulton, Drew Garvin (engineer), Bob Collins (attorney)
 - Mr. Collins provided a copy of the Deed In Trust for the lands to be placed under Conservation Restriction, for Commission review.
 - GB asked about maintenance requirements such as mowing, on Parcel B.
 - Mr. Collins: there is flexibility on Parcel B as it is not part of the Conservation & Management Permit issued under MA Endangered Species Act (MESA).
 - Commission suggested excluding Parcel B. It is better suited for management by the homeowners association.
 - DB noted that Parcel G is not included in the Deed.
 - Mr. Collins said this is an error – Parcel G should be included.
 - Other omissions noted were Parcels C.1, C.2, and C.3.
 - Mr. Collins also noted an erroneous reference to an “access easement” on Parcel A; will be corrected.
 - The plan was revised per Ayer DPW recommendation to include:
 - Double grate catch basins at Wright Rd.
 - Three clay check dams at Wright Rd./Standish Ave.
 - Mr. Moulton will not repave Wright Rd. until spring 2011.
 - DB asked for a copy of the 401 Water Quality Certification
 - Mr. Garvin said he would supply a copy.
 - JG moved to approve the NOI and issue Order of Conditions (OOC); DB 2nd.
 - GB abstained from voting due to absence at previous hearing.
 - TT abstained to avoid appearance of conflict of interest stemming from his employment with the wildlife consultants for the MESA permit.
 - Motion approved with 3 in favor and 2 abstaining.
 - CA will forward the OOC with Special Conditions to the applicants.

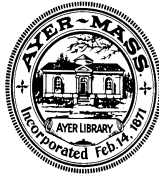


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- **Public Meeting (cont'd): OOC Extension Request – 1 Wagon Road (DEP #100-0307)**
 - Ted & Margaret Staples, 1 Wagon Rd.
 - BD asked if there were any issues covered by the OOC that require further work.
 - Mr. Staples said the work to be completed includes peripheral landscaping affected by the springtime flooding, and repair of shed and dock stairs.
 - JG moved to approve the OOC Extension; DB 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Public Meeting: RDA – Fence Installation, Epic Enterprises**
 - Jesse Johnson of David E. Ross Associates (engineer) explained the application to install a fence along the perimeter of Epic property south of Sandy Pond Road and west of Snake Hill Road
 - Provided a check for the legal notice.
 - Provided a copy Buxton Co. (fence contractor) installation methodology.
 - The fence will be installed within wetland buffer zone, and will come within feet of the wetland near the culvert under Sandy Pond Rd.
 - Epic has had trouble with squatters on their property; fence will close off the property and protect their well field. Fence height is 6 feet.
 - BD requested that the erosion control (silt fence) installation be coordinated with CA's schedule.
 - Mr. Johnson said all excess soil will be removed from the site.
 - He will provide a maintenance plan for the fence.
 - GB asked if consideration should be given for wildlife passage.
 - GB moved to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability; JG 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Public Hearing (cont'd): NOI – Lot 9, Patriot Way**
 - Jesse Johnson, engineer presented NOI for Lot 9, Patriot Way
 - Provided check for legal notice.
 - Project consists of a single family home.
 - Commission conducted a site walk on 6/26/10; no issues were encountered.
 - GB moved to approve NOI; JG 2nd.
 - TT abstained due to absence at previous hearing.
 - Motion approved with 4 in favor and 1 abstaining.
- **Discussion: Emily's Way – Proposed Subdivision**
 - Dan Nason, Ayer DPW Superintendent, discussed the proposed subdivision from DPW's perspective.
 - The project does not appear to impact any wetlands, but there are potential impacts to Flannagan (Fletchers) Pond from stormwater.
 - Proposed drainage system will tie-in to Town infrastructure at Groton-Harvard Road, which drains to the pond via a drainage swale.
 - The proposed drainage system is designed for 25-year storm event.
 - Planning Board will conduct third-party review of the proposed design.

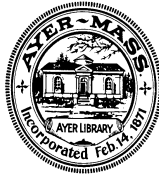


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- Issues/concerns include:
 - Increased stormwater runoff volume to the drainage swale, which is on the opposite side of Groton-Harvard Rd., on an abutting property.
 - No calculations were made of the drainage swale in the proposal.
 - Impact on drainage to other properties along Groton-Harvard Rd.
 - Manually operated vehicle swing gate off of High Street is proposed.
 - DPW & Fire Dept. prefer a through-road.
- Wetland issues
 - No wetlands on the property.
 - CA suggested providing comments/recommendations to Planning Board re: erosion controls.
 - The site is on a steep hill, with lots of ledge, and could be a source of uncontrolled runoff and erosion, similar to The Willows.
 - DB suggested requesting a copy of 401 Water Quality Certification.
- **Discussion: NOI – Flood Control, Ayer Fire Department**
 - Memo from Fire Chief Pedrazzi asked what permits they would need to build an engineered flood control berm around the back of the fire station lot.
 - BD stated that such a project would require a NOI.
 - Fire Dept. would be exempt from any filing fees; the only cost would be the legal notice of the public hearing.
- **CA Updates**
 - RDA for Kelli White: Needs signatures.
 - Commissioners signed the RDA (TT missed the public meeting and did not sign)
 - VHB (engineering consultant) is conducting a stormwater management study for DPW.
 - Pingry Hill Site Walk
 - CA and JG conducted a site walk with the contractor (Powell Construction).
 - The catch basins were a mess.
 - One of the catch basins on Route 2A was completely buried by runoff material.
 - Rick Roper and Steve Mullaney have yet to provide a copy of the tie-in permit issued by the state.
 - CA will make another request.
 - There is a substantial amount of sediment west of Snake Hill Road, across Rt. 2A, and near the utility easement.
 - Powell was to add a haybale dyke to reduce siltation to the brook.
 - Who owns the property west of Snake Hill Rd, south of Rt. 2A? Unknown.
 - Also visited Lot W, owned by Matt Pinard.
 - Hydroseed got washed away in rainstorm, as did some of the mulch.
 - Mr. Pinard indicated he might give up trying to grow a lawn on the slope, and would add a curb to his driveway.
 - The wetland replication area is taking well; Mr. Pinard would like to plant more blueberry bushes if possible.



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- CA indicated to Mr. Pinard that he could plant more blueberries.
 - Mr. Pinard also asked if he could remove the erosion controls behind the house
 - CA told him to leave erosion controls in place for the time being.
 - One of the underlying problems at Pingry Hill is that the state highway stormwater infrastructure provides no protection for the wetlands and brook.
 - BD stated it was in Mr. Roper's best interest to provide copies of the various permits for the project.
- **Announcements**
 - Middlesex Conservation District plant sale brochure is available.
 - DEP memo: Notary signature is no longer required on wetlands permits.
 - Ayer Greenway Committee newsletter:
 - Rail Trail Bike Event – 6/17/10
 - The new Oak Ridge Loop Trail is ready for public enjoyment.
 - NRWA released its annual report.
- **Meeting Minutes Approval**
 - 5/13/10: no edits
 - JG moved to approve 5/13/10 minutes, as written; GB 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- **9:30 – Adjourn Meeting**
 - JG moved to adjourn; GB 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.