

Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 * 978-772-8249 * 978-772-8208 (fax)
Minutes for **03/29/11** – Approved 4/28/11

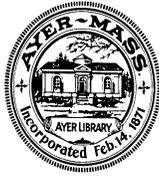
Location: Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor Conference Room

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

APAC taped: No

7:15 PM – Open Meeting

- **Pond Weed Control RFP for Sandy Pond and Pine Meadow Pond**
 - The draft RFP was reviewed and edited.
 - It was decided to continue to have responses to the RFP be returned to the Commission via the Town Clerk's Office so that proposals can be properly time-stamped.
 - CA wondered if the Town Clerk is willing to accept proposals for this purpose.
 - Commission decided to retain the wording on the basis that it felt this was properly part of the Clerk's duty to the Town.
 - TT asked to include spot treatment for invasive *Phragmites* in Pine Meadow Pond.
 - The RFP asks for weed treatment control to at least 85% effectiveness.
 - The Commission discussed how to determine if work meets this standard, including what the might to quantify pre- and post-treatment status of each pond.
 - TT asked for wording that would require the Consultant to identify the boundaries of regions to be treated.
 - Wording in the RFP was changed to state that pre- and post-treatment inspections include, at a minimum, a photographic survey and GPS-generated plot.
 - Data points taken with the GPS were asked to be spaced at 10' or less, to provide an accurate plot of the area to be treated.
 - Proposals were asked to include examples of pre- and post-treatment inspection methodology, including forms and photographs.
 - CA said Parks & Recreation, which oversees the Town Beach, should have a one-week notice prior to treatment.
 - Wording in the RFP was changed to add in the line that "A minimum notice of 7 calendar days is required for town offices and must be confirmed by same."
 - BD asked CA to confirm with the Town Administrator that the figures used for minimum insurance requirements are accurate.
 - GB moved to accept the language of the edited RFP for weed control treatment, contingent on confirmation of the accuracy of the insurance figures; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved 4-1.
 - Ayes: GB, DB, TT, and JG; Nay: BD
 - CA will have the RFP notice published in the newspaper and posted in Town Hall. CA will also send copies of the RFP to the 2-3 companies we know of in the area that do weed control work. CA will ask Town Administrator Robert Pontbriand about listing the RFP on the State's Register for Goods and Services as well.
- **CA Updates**
 - Keith Henderson, representing Pan Am Railway's RDA for pesticide treatment, asked CA if it was necessary for him to be present at the Commission meeting.



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- The Commission said yes, and that a site visit would be scheduled at that time.
- CA spent a good part of Friday, 3/25/11, out in the field in the Nemco Way area:
 - Rick Linde, of DPW, reported resident Chris Hillman, of 5 Wagon Road, has cut down pine trees near Spectacle Pond, including along the right-of-way.
 - Because of flooding, some of the trees were rotting and presented a safety issue.
 - CA met with Mr. Hillman, who has previously been helpful to the Commission in reporting a hydroseeding company's contamination of water in the area.
 - Mr. Hillman was not aware that he needed to contact the Commission before cutting down trees in wetland areas.
 - CA gave Mr. Hillman the okay, for safety issues, to cut down two more trees along the roadway and another near his driveway.
 - CA asked if Mr. Hillman should be required to come in to update the Commission personally, or whether photos of the completed work and an additional inspection by the CA would suffice.
- BD asked that Mr. Hillman be invited to come in, so that the Commission remains consistent with regard to similar incidents concerning Ayer residents.
- While visiting Mr. Hillman, CA observed the DPW had laid down gravel to facilitate its access to Spectacle Pond, and that some of this has now been plowed into the pond.
- In the same vicinity, CA observed that Horizon Milling, 35 Nemco Way, had placed a stockpile of soil near its wetlands.
 - CA met with manager Joseph Kochan, of Horizon Milling (35 Nemco Way).
 - Horizon Milling has an indoor excavation project underway and is temporarily storing the soil outside for use in backfilling the project.
 - Horizon Milling has a DPW permit for the work but was unaware of the need to contact the Commission for work done near wetlands.
 - Mr. Kochan, who was very cooperative, said the soil pile would be moved approximately 50', closer to the rail spur, by the following Monday, 3/28.
 - CA asked if the Commission wanted Horizon Milling to submit a retroactive RDA for the soil pile.
 - BD said that as long as the company demonstrated its good intent by moving the soil pile by 3/28, an RDA was not necessary.
- Mr. Kochan also told the CA of the company's interest in installing a beaver deceiver in the wetlands – which the CA noted as an aside would also help with Mr. Hillman's periodic flooding issues.
 - A beaver deceiver would require the submission of an RDA.
- CA said Planning Board Administrator Sue Sullivan told her of what looks like a fresh soil pile filling in the wetland of a house (whose ownership and mailing address is still unknown) on West Main Street.
 - BD has seen the pile and said it is, instead, simply a dirty snow pile.
 -
- **9:00 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
 - GB moved to adjourn; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.