

Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 * 978-772-8249 * 978-772-8208 (fax)
Minutes for 6/14/12 – Approved 6/28/12

Location: Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor

Members present: George Bacon (GB, Vice-Chair), Jessica Gugino (JG, Clerk), Takashi Tada (TT), Becky DaSilva-Conde (CA, Conservation Administrator), Steven Zisk (Temporary Conservation Administrator)

APAC taped: Yes

Not present: Bill Daniels (BD, Chair)

7:08 PM – Open Meeting

- **Confirmation of Agenda**

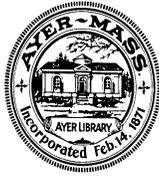
- The Public Meeting re Violation Notice for Pond View Estates was postponed to 6/28.
- TT moved to confirm agenda as amended; JG 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.

- **Announcements**

- GB read the announcement from Fruitlands Museum detailing their public education ‘WHIP’ project re controlling invasive species on museum property.
 - Fruitlands will also be conducting a daylong workshop on 7/14 geared to homeowners.
 - Further information at www.fruitlands.org/events/evilplants.

- **Accounts Payable**

- Staples: \$237.87, for office supplies and a new chair.
 - TT moved to approve payment of \$237.87; JG 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- Grafix: \$202.00, for printed envelopes.
 - JG moved to approve payment of \$202.00; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- Lycott Environmental: \$28,200.00, for 2012 weed treatment on Flannagan Pond.
 - CA noted that the bill was for the full amount.
 - ConCom usually writes its RFPs to specify an 80% payment with complete payment deferred until confirmation of treatment success and receipt of the final report.
 - This RFP was not prepared by ConCom.
 - In addition, ConCom does not have the funds that were allocated by the BOS to pay this bill.
 - CA will forward this bill to Town Administrator Robert Pontbriand with the above suggestion.
- MACC: \$231.00, for membership dues (July 2012 – June 2013).
 - CA noted this bill will be paid out of the FY 2013 budget in July.
 - No action was taken by ConCom at this time.



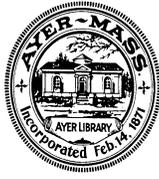
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- MACC also has a new guidebook available for \$24.00 – “Runoff, Erosion and Sediment Control.”

- **Welcome to new Temporary CA**
 - Steve Zisk was welcomed to ConCom.
 - CA has been orienting Mr. Zisk to ConCom office procedures, introducing him to Town Hall employees, and touring Ayer and ongoing sites for monitoring.
 - CA’s last day before maternity leave will be 6/15/12.
 - Starting the following week, Mr. Zisk’s office hours will be all day Fridays.
 - Mr. Zisk will also be in the office for a couple of hours on Thursdays before ConCom meetings.
 - CA has asked that these summer hours be posted on ConCom’s website.

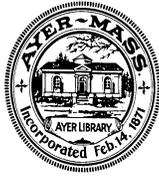
- **CA Updates**
 - Flannagan Pond Weed Treatment
 - Lycott Environmental applied weed treatments for milfoil using Reward on 5/15 and 5/18, and for fanwort using Sonar on 5/23.
 - An additional booster treatment was applied last week.
 - Pond View Estates
 - CA received a copy of the email sent from NHESP (Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program) giving permission for the homeowners association to put off preparation of their turtle habitat assessment for a year, to 2013.
 - This was granted because the Conservation Restriction was not actually recorded until 2009.
 - Thereafter, habitat assessments will be due every 4 years.
 - Misty-Anne Marold of NHESP has also given the homeowners association permission to change the height of their beaver deceiver.
 - This will lower the water level, preventing water backup from encroaching on turtle habitat.
 - Pingry Hill
 - CA received an email from a resident living on Haymeadow Lane.
 - The resident has complaints about siltation on the road, which is only half-completed.
 - This area is not within any buffer zone over which ConCom has jurisdiction.
 - It is instead a stormwater issue falling under the DPW’s jurisdiction.
 - CA contacted Pingry Hill developer Rick Roper and DPW Superintendent Mark Wetzel.
 - Mr. Wetzel will be following up.
 - Devens
 - CA received notice of a slightly revised plan from Bill Branden, of the EPA, for installing microwells for monitoring at Shepley Hill landfill, a Superfund site.
 - This work will commence on 6/18/12.
 - CA will ask that they keep ConCom updated as work progresses.
 - 20 Oak Ridge Drive



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- CA has inspected and approved the installation of the haybale line for the Kelley's construction project.
- Spectacle Pond and Grove Pond wells
 - CA has not received updates on where the test wells are at Spectacle Pond.
 - DPW Superintendent Wetzel will be moving forward on facility upgrades at Grove Pond.
 - Mr. Wetzel is revising the January plan so that some of the work may now fall within the buffer zone.
 - Mr. Wetzel is aware of this, and if this is the case, will be coming before ConCom.
- The Willows
 - A copy of the Administrative Consent from DEP has yet to be received.
 - CA reports that Joe Bellino, of Mass DEP, will likely be coming out for another site inspection in the near future.
- Twin Valley Homes
 - CA has contacted Mike Sheehan re his request for a Certificate of Compliance.
 - The request packet is not complete as some significant discrepancies between the plans and the as-built have not been adequately addressed, as requested by CA.
 - CA said the engineer for the site said he would address these issues in more detail on a site visit, however CA said no site visit would be scheduled until the packet was complete.
 - Mr. Zisk will follow up on this.
- **Public Meeting: Violation Notice, Melissa Steeves, 32 Calvin Street**
 - Ms. Steeves received a VN for keeping chickens within the buffer zone of Flannagan Pond without ConCom permission.
 - Ms. Steeves has now also applied for a permit from the Board of Health.
 - The BOH has approved a permit but will hold off on issuing it until ConCom has signed off as well.
 - CA explained that ConCom's interest has to do primarily with management to prevent waste from getting into the water.
 - Ms. Steeves said the area where the chickens are kept is flat.
 - The coop is 34 ft. from a seasonal inlet to the right of the property.
 - The area in between the coop and the pond is wooded.
 - The chicken have been tested and found clear of salmonella and influenza.
 - The chicken waste is bagged and given to friends for composting and gardening.
 - Ms. Steeves was asked to file an RDA and to add detail to her sketch that includes where the lawn and woods are in relation to the coop.
 - Ms. Steeves gave permission for CA and Mr. Zisk to make a site visit on her property.
 - Ms. Steeves plans to submit the RDA by the end of next week so she can be placed on the meeting agenda for 7/12.
 - Mr. Zisk suggested Ms. Steeves also include a maintenance schedule.



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- **Public Meeting: Request for Certificate of Compliance – Epic Enterprises, Inc (DEP # 100-0342)**
 - CA performed a site visit on 6/1 and saw no problems.
 - Hydroseeding has taken well and no erosion issues were observed.
 - CA gave permission at that time for the removal of the wattles.
 - TT moved to issue an OOC; JG 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
 - CA will send an email confirming the COC to Building Inspector Gabe Vallente so that he can issue a full occupancy permit to Epic Enterprises.

- **Member Updates**
 - JG mentioned two potential problem spots on Oak Ridge Drive.
 - On one, a resident appears to be digging out his front yard for the placement of steps.
 - CA and Mr. Zisk drove by this site and said it is outside the buffer zone so not jurisdictional.
 - A second resident on the pond-side of the street has excavated a driveway area and placed a large soil pile to the left of the garage.
 - CA and Mr. Zisk will look at this site during a drive-by of the area on 6/15.
 - TT said the Pond and Dam Committee's meeting for the previous week was cancelled.
 - In the meantime, DPW Superintendent Wetzel issued an RFP for a Phase I beaver dam inspection and received a proposal.
 - This will be discussed at the next meeting of the Pond and Dam Committee.

- **Public Meeting: Enforcement Order – Lillie Wilson, 33 Dear Run (Pingry Hill Lot 88 – DEP # 100-0263).**
 - Ms. Wilson did not appear.
 - Mr. Zisk will follow up on this,

- **8:20 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
 - TT moved to adjourn; JG 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.