

Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 * 978-772-8249 * 978-772-8208 (fax)
Minutes for **8/9/12** – Approved 8/23/12

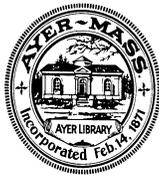
Location: Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor

Members present: Bill Daniels (BD, Chair), George Bacon (GB, Vice-Chair), Jessica Gugino (JG, Clerk), Takashi Tada (TT), Steven Zisk (CA, Conservation Administrator)

APAC taped: Yes

7:15 PM – Open Meeting

- **Announcements**
 - The Willows
 - CA continues to receive updates on progress at The Willows.
 - BD and CA have both driven through the site and report it looks stable at present.
 - Plow Shop Pond
 - CA brought the final report received from the Army Corps of Engineers re their plans to remove or remediate contaminated sediment in 3 areas of Plow Shop Pond.
- **Meeting Minutes Approval**
 - GB moved to accept the meeting minutes for 7/26/12 as written; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Public Meeting (cont'd): East Main Street woodpile violation**
 - CA spoke with Roger McPadden and his son about the woodpile still standing atop the streambank and that was the subject of a Violation Notice in the spring.
 - The McPaddens had agreed to move the pile back from the bank by the end of July.
 - CA invited the McPaddens to come in again to speak with ConCom.
 - Since then, the woodpile has been completely removed from the bank, and CA confirmed this.
- **Request for Certificate of Compliance (COC) – 118 Sandy Pond Road (DEP # 100-182)**
 - CA received a request for a COC from the resident at 118 Sandy Pond Road.
 - A standard OOC was issued in 1998 but the builder never requested a COC.
 - CA visited the site and did not see any issues of concern.
 - There was no sign of encroachment into the wetland.
 - The backyard follows the original contours of the land.
 - The yard is also surrounded by chain-link fencing that acts as a barrier between it and the wetland.
 - GB moved to approve issuance of a COC; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
 - Commissioners signed a blank signature form which CA will complete later.
- **CA Updates**
 - Autumn Ridge Violation
 - CA received a message from Cal Goldsmith, of Goldsmith, Prest & Ringwall, asking for an update of ConCom's 7/26 discussion of Autumn Ridge.
 - CA will contact Mr. Goldsmith with this information, and will ask for a timetable from the contractor for completion of the work.
 - Autumn Ridge resident/trustee John Cadigan was given copies of the Enforcement Order and emails to GPR and the contractor.



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- 94 Sunflower Court/Pond View Estates – steps behind condo unit
 - CA confirmed that the work done by condo owner Bill Principe (wildflower plantings, erosion control boards, stone steps) was outside of a nearby Conservation Restriction easement.
 - CA distributed copies of the list of wildflowers Mr. Principe planted.
 - Mr. Principe asked ConCom to provide a letter to his Condo Association stating that all the work he did was acceptable to the Commission.
 - BD asked CA to first check some of the plants, listed under their Latin names, to verify that they are native species.
 - If okay, CA can then send a note to the Condo Association approving of the plantings and steps.
- Pond View Home Owners Association – dock area
 - CA received an email from Home Owners Association President Paul Magno detailing work done in the dock area and asking if they were still required to submit a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA).
 - Based on discussion held with Mr Magno at ConCom's 6/28 meeting, BD asked CA to provide Mr. Magno with the RDA application form.
- 25 Groton-Harvard Road
 - CA received an email from a potential buyer for this home which abuts Flannagan Pond and falls within ConCom jurisdiction.
 - If the house was purchased, the buyer wanted to know how difficult it would be to secure ConCom approval to expand the garage for handicapped access.
 - If this was not possible, then the potential buyer would not move forward with purchase.
 - BD asked CA to communicate to the buyer that the worst-case scenario for this work would likely require only the filing of an RDA.
- Ice House Dam Drawdown
 - Notice was received from Liisa Marino, VP of Ice House Partners, Inc., that their annual drawdown for inspection and maintenance of the dam is planned for the weeks of 9/10 and 9/17/12.
 - As of March 2012, the partnership is now selling hydropower back into the grid in a power purchase agreement with Littleton Electric.
 - Ice House Partners, Inc. will also be submitting a request to renew/extend their OOC from Ayer (Mass DEP # 100-321) a few months prior to its expiration in April 2014.
 - The OOC was automatically extended prior to this via the state's Permit Extension Law.
- **Member Updates**
 - GB gave a heads-up that the 8/9 Lowell Sun ran an article stating that the Secretary of State for the Commonwealth has ordered all Ayer officers, employees and board members to take Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) training.
 - This order is the result of an FOIA request made to the Board of Selectmen, wherein it was discovered that a Selectman apparently deleted emails which he/she inaccurately had considered to be personal.
- **8:07 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
 - TT moved to adjourn; GB 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.