



Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA01432 * 978-772-8218 * 978-772-3017(fax)
Minutes for **08/09/07** – **Approved**

Location: Town Hall

Members present: Bill Daniels (BD, Chair), David Bodurtha (DB, Vice-chair), George Bacon (GB), Takashi Tada (TT, Clerk), Susan Tordella-Williams (ST)

Associate Members present: none

APAC taped: Yes

Start time: 7:00 pm

- **General business**
 - Payables
 - Invoice from PC Doctor for computer technical support, \$225.00
 - GB motion to approve 1/3 payment, ST second
 - Motion approved unanimously
- **Continued Public Hearing: 71 Sandy Pond Road (DEP # 100-309)**
 - Mark Velardi, applicant, present.
 - Brief synopsis of site walk by Commission.
 - Location of proposed garage is within 100 feet of flagged wetland associated with a drainage ditch, which was relatively dry and ringed by large upland trees, e.g. oaks.
 - Garage location is already disturbed/yard.
 - DB and ST expressed concern with large items currently stored immediately adjacent to the wetland.
 - Mr. Velardi indicated he would move those items away from wetland.
 - A neighbor in attendance expressed concern about unpermitted vehicles being parked onsite.
 - BD explained why her concern does not fall under Commission's purview.
 - GB moved to continue hearing to 08/23/07, DB seconded.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
 - DB to prepare draft OOC for review.
- **Public Hearing – NOI re: Ayer DPW, Grove Pond Wells Replacement**
 - Engineers from Tata & Howard representing Ayer DPW.
 - Project is to replace two existing drinking water wells south of Grove Pond. First step is to perform a pump test to measure drawdown. Town has received approval from DEP to conduct the test.
 - BD raised concerns based on prior experience with such projects.
 - Erosion controls, as depicted on the drawing, are insufficient.
 - Discharge basin, as shown on drawing, is not likely to accommodate the expected volume and velocity of water throughout the pump test (24 hours).
 - Recommend lining the basin with Marafi fabric to disperse the discharge, and adding a second (outer) line of hay bales for anticipated overflow.
 - DB voiced concern about handling/managing fuel for the pumps, based on similar experience at the MBCR culvert replacement project (Fall 2006).



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- Recommend placing the pumps on tarps to contain potential fuel spillage during operation and refueling.
 - The two old wells will be decommissioned properly.
 - BD and GB also mentioned the potential for noise pollution during pumping, as the pumps are very loud.
 - Recommend dampening the noise by surrounding pumps with hay bales or similar.
 - Also suggest placing notification in the *Ayer Public Spirit* to warn neighbors of the potential for noise disturbance during pumping.
 - Site walk scheduled on Saturday, 08/11/07, at 8:30 AM.
 - GB moved to continue hearing to 08/23/07, pending site walk and revision of plan based on Commission recommendations, ST seconded.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Enforcement Order re: 82 Groton School Road**
 - Sean Hale of Ross Associates, representative for homeowner Brent Routhier, presented a draft wetland restoration plan to mitigate violations under the Wetlands Protection Act.
 - Plan includes removing the filled areas, restoring natural (pre-existing) topography, and reestablishing the wetland vegetation with an appropriate native plant mix.
 - The retaining wall is to remain (prevents flooding in home).
 - Approximately 2,100 square feet of wetland replication is proposed to offset the alteration due to installation of the retaining wall.
 - The new PVC drain pipe will be relocated to the upland area behind house.
 - Commission expressed concern about the location and integrity of the retaining wall, as it appears to be in the stream channel.
 - The stream is not mapped (USGS) and the site is not within 100-year flood plain.
 - Mr. Hale will submit the final restoration plan along with a new Notice of Intent filing.
 - Mr. Hale will also ask if Mr. Routhier has any further plans to perform work at the site.
 - Site walk scheduled for Monday, 08/20/07, at 6:30 PM.
 - **Continued Public Hearing – Notice of Intent re: Stratton Hill Subdivision (Wright Rd.)**
 - Bob Collins, Esq., representing developer Dave Moulton.
 - Hearing was advertised in *Lowell Sun*.
 - Revised drawings received by the Commission show the extension of hay bale line around the culvert crossing, as requested.
 - GB moved to continue hearing to 08/23/07, DB seconded.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
 - GB to prepare draft OOC for review.
 - **Other Issues**
 - Filing re: Nashoba Valley Medical Center
 - ST to arrange the newspaper ad for hearing on 08/23/07.
 - COC re: MBCR Culvert Replacement
 - DB to follow up next week.



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- RDA re: Guilford/Pan-Am Weed Spraying
 - BD to ask Guilford how the spraying went.
- Conservation Administrator
 - ST mentioned that Chelmsford also has a position open, but with more hours and benefits.
 - Possibility to share a candidate interested in full-time hours.
 - DB to see if Lancaster's part-time agent is still interested in the position.
- NOI re: FMC Corporation (Remediation site on Bishop Road)
 - FMC notified Commission that they have received permits from DEP and Army Corps of Engineers, sooner than expected.
 - Anticipated start-up is in late Summer 2008.
 - TT to prepare draft OOC for review.
- Grady Research (Ice House)
 - Commission would like copies of correspondence from NHESP, USFWS, etal.
- Form Letter for pond residents
 - To inform of regulations associated with ponds.
 - This could be a priority task for future Conservation Administrator.
 - Should be done separately from ACT (weed control) informational flyer.
- Possible Wetlands Violations (2) on Oak Ridge Dr.
 - (1) Homeowner constructed a "beach" on the pond, (address ??)
 - ST to take a look.
 - TT to refer to 2005 aerial photographs for previous conditions.
 - (2) Excavator has been working in backyard, within 100 feet (107 Oak Ridge ?).
- Associate Member appointment
 - GB moved to appoint Mr. Denis Luken to a one-year term as Associate Member, seconded by DB.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- Wetland Violation at 6 Wright Rd.
 - Nothing new to report.
- Chapter 91, Public Waterfront Act
 - A public informational meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, 08/22/07, at the Groton Middle School (Rte. 119).
- Meeting Minutes Approval
 - ST moved to approve 07/26/07 Meeting Minutes, as amended; GB seconded.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
- Member Issues
 - ST: Asked how to go about receiving assistance from the state to control purple loosestrife, an invasive wetland plant.
 - TT will contact Office of Coastal Zone Management.
 - GB: Suggested coordinating with Shaun Suhoski, Town Administrator, for future update of the office procedures.
 - DB (Stormwater Committee representative): Mentioned the DPW wants to enhance the town's stormwater policies.



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- TT: Mentioned that PACE has received a copy of the report on former tannery sight (3 Bligh St.) by ENSOL. Report was provided courtesy of DEP.
 - Will bring report to next meeting for Mr. Luken to review.
 -
- ST moved to adjourn, DB seconded.
 - Motion approved unanimously (**Adjourn 9:30**)