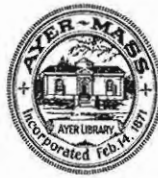


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## 2017 OCT -4 PM 1:49 Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

*M. E. Popple*

Town Hall \* One Main Street \* Ayer, MA 01432 \* 978-772-8249  
Minutes for 8/31/2017

Location: Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor

Present: Bill Daniels (BD, Chair), George Bacon (GB, Vice-Chair), Bonnie Tillotson (BT, Member), Jessica Gugino (JG, Member/Clerk), Kait Rimol, (ICA, Interim Conservation Administrator)

APAC taped: Uncertain

### 6:45 PM – Open Special Meeting

- **Confirmation of Agenda**

- GB moved to confirm the agenda as posted; JG 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Motion approved unanimously

- **Discussion: Eagle Scout Project, Robert Houde**

- As noted at the previous meeting, 8/24, Robert has already installed sonotube piers for his bridge project, but without having had the final plans reviewed and permitted by ConCom.
  - The project proposes construction of a wooden pedestrian bridge across the stream running from the Rock Meadow Pond wetlands into Pine Meadow Pond, on Town conservation land.
  - The piers have already been back-filled and Mr. Houde put 'caution' tape around the area.
- BD contacted Robert after the last meeting and asked him to come in and discuss.
  - BD stressed that no further work be done until the permitting process through ConCom has been completed.
- Robert agreed to come in after school on Tuesday, 9/5, around 3 p.m., to meet with ICA.
  - He should bring with him the plans that Cal Goldsmith, of Goldsmith, Prest & Ringwall (GPR), helped him with.
  - ICA will then help him with the process of preparing a 'Request for Determination of Applicability' (RDA) for official ConCom review.
- BD also asked if Robert had ascertained whether he needed a building permit from the Building Inspector for construction of the bridge.
  - From the audience Robert's father, Scott Houde, said they had asked multiple times and been told that a building permit was not required.
  - BD said that this should be confirmed by the Building Inspector after showing him the actual plans.

- **CA Interviews**

- At 7:00, Erica Cross was interviewed.
- 8:00, Kate Poirer was interviewed.
- After discussion following the interviews, the Commission identified two candidates from those interviewed thus far and BD will contact them both asking for references.
  - ConCom will hold another Special Meeting on Thursday, 9/7, at 7 p.m., to discuss further.

- **Conservation Commission Office Updates**

- Field Inspections
  - ICA met with DPW Superintendent Mark Wetzel at Rosewood Avenue/Solar One site.



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- Mr. Wetzel saw no issues with the stormwater system there.
- The site contractor will be spreading loam and seed underneath the solar panel array in 3-4 weeks.
- ICA confirmed that the requested changes have been made to the erosion controls at the Riley Jayne Farm development (Pleasant Street Extension).
  - Sean Fornier, of Onyx Corporation, is looking into longer-term solutions to some areas in the project.
  - ICA should have an update for ConCom for its 9/14 meeting.
- At Catania Spagna, ICA said the issues she had asked to be corrected have been addressed and the site now looks great.
  - ConCom will proceed with signing a Certificate of Compliance at the 9/14 meeting.
- Barnum Road
  - After receiving a phone call from a resident, ICA visited the Barnum Road business just off the rotary – the building houses a liquor store, barber, travel agency, and some apartments.
  - ICA provided photos showing owner had constructed a low stone barrier between the parking lot and the wetlands.
  - As it did not look like this presented a threat to the wetlands, ConCom did not feel there was a need for further action.
- Draft letters to residents
  - ConCom reviewed and suggested edits to a letter to a Sandy Pond resident about their weed-pulling in the pond as observed and reported by another resident.
    - The letter asks the resident to come see ConCom before commencing further work that may be jurisdictional under the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA), either in the pond or within the 100 ft. buffer zone to the shore.
  - ConCom also reviewed and suggested edits to a draft letter ConCom plans to send to all residents abutting Ayer's ponds.
    - Periodically it is a good idea to remind residents of the value and function of these natural resources, and the jurisdictional issues under the WPA for certain kinds of work within the buffer zone that they may or may not be aware of.
    - The letter invites homeowners to feel free to contact ConCom with questions about such potential projects and the permitting process that may, or may not, be required.
- **10:02 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
  - GB moved to adjourn; BT 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Jessica G. Gugino, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved by Conservation Commission: 9/28/2017

Signature Indicating Approval: Jessica G. Gugino