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AUG 26 2019

TOWN OF AYER

*Anna Poppe*

## **Town of Ayer Conservation Commission**

Town Hall \* One Main Street \* Ayer, MA 01432 \* 978-772-8249

Minutes for 7/25/2019

Location: Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor

Present: George Bacon (GB, Chair), Bonnie Tillotson (BT, Vice-Chair), Jessica Gugino (JG, Member/Clerk), Mark Phillips (MP, Member), Jo-Anne Crystoff, (CA, Conservation Administrator)

Not Present: Jon Schmalenberger (JS, Member)

APAC taped: Yes

### **7:08 PM – Open Meeting**

- **Confirmation of Agenda**

- An RDA (Request for Determination of Applicability) for East Main Street was postponed until 8/8 meeting.
- CA also did not hear back from the applicant for a continued RDA for 89 Littleton Road and therefore did not expect anyone to be present.
- BT moved to confirm the agenda as amended; MP 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Motion approved unanimously.

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- BT moved to accept the minutes for 7/11/2019 as written; MP 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Motion approved unanimously.

- **Accounts Payable**

- MSMCP (Mass. Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals): \$20.00, annual dues.
  - BT moved to approve payment of \$20.00; MP 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.

- **Public Hearing (cont'd.): Notice of Intent (NOI) – John Carroll Reserve subdivision, 54 & 56 Littleton Road, LR Properties, LLC, MassDEP #100-0436**

- Assessor's Map 36, Parcels 2, 21, 22 & 24, Littleton Road
- CA reported that she and Town Planner Archambault had reviewed 4 proposals for an outside consultant, from BSC Group, Bohler Engineering, Weston & Sampson, and Graves Engineering.
  - BSC Group's proposal was the most comprehensive and indicated they would not only review the NOI and plans but also make recommendations.
  - For this and other reasons, BSC Group was therefore selected as the outside consultant and Mr. Archambault has started the process to set up a special account, etc.
    - The Planning Board clock is ticking and therefore it is imperative the review be completed as soon as possible.
- There being no need for further action, BT moved to continue the Public Hearing to 8/8; MP 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Motion approved unanimously.

- **Discussion (cont'd.): Request for Extension of Order of Conditions (OOC) – Ridge View Realty Trust, Woodland Way Subdivision Modification Infrastructure, MassDEP # 100-0393**

- Previously discussed and approved at ConCom's 7/11 meeting.
- BT moved to sign the OOC Extension; MP 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Motion approved unanimously.



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- **Public Hearing: Abbreviated NOI (ANOI) – 113 Oak Ridge Drive, Mary Walker, MassDEP # 100-0TBD**
  - Mary Walker was present.
  - Work on this property, which abuts Flannagan Pond, was previously discussed at an RDA hearing on 6/13, followed by a site walk on 6/29, followed by a Violation Notice discussion on 7/11.
    - After the 7/11 discussion, CA assisted with preparation of a plan and the application for constructing a retaining wall in the backyard to allow for some filling and leveling of the yard area.
    - ConCom performed a second site visit on 7/20 to review the new plan.
      - Cross-beams to brace the retaining wall were added and Ms. Walker plans 6 posts instead of 4 for the wall.
  - CA had a prepared OOC ready for signing.
    - JG noted that Mrs. Walker will have to record the signed OOC at the Registry of Deeds.
    - BT moved to approve the OOC for 113 Oak Ridge Drive; MP 2<sup>nd</sup>.
      - Motion approved unanimously and the OOC was signed.
  - GB noted later (during Member Updates) that the previous RDA as well as the Violation Notice both need to be closed out.
    - CA will put this on ConCom's next meeting agenda, 8/8.
    - Ms. Walker does not need to be present.
- **Conservation Commission Office Updates**
  - 2019 Pond Weed Treatments, Solitude Lake Management
    - After coordination with the Parks Department, Solitude will do its treatment of Sandy Pond on Friday, 7/26, when no swimming lessons are scheduled.
      - Pine Meadow and Flannagan ponds will be treated on Monday, 7/29.
    - CA requested a copy of the pre-treatment survey but has not yet received it.
  - Beaver Solutions
    - CA received a \$2005.00 proposal from Mike Callahan, of Beaver Solutions, for installation and maintenance of a beaver deceiver at a beaver dam on the stream that runs from 'Rock Meadow Pond' into Pine Meadow Pond.
    - There are two beaver dams on this stream and ConCom previously had a deceiver installed on the upper dam.
      - The lower dam has now been built up considerably and is now impounding a lot of water which is also flooding a nearby trail.
      - The 2011 failure of the upper dam temporarily wiped out the lower dam and also proceeded to wash out a portion of Oak Ridge Drive, between Pine Meadow Pond and Flannagan Pond.
      - This impoundment is therefore a public safety issue.
      - ConCom does not have the funds in its beaver account to cover this cost.
    - CA will follow up with Town Administrator Pontbriand about this.
  - Pingry Hill
    - The latest inspection report from Desheng Wang indicates that things are going well.
      - More basin work is taking place since house-building has slowed a bit.
      - Two replication areas will be done in the fall and CA has reviewed the planting plan submitted by Dr. Wang.



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- **0 Central Avenue, John Hillier, Central Avenue Compassionate Care, Enforcement Order (EO)**
  - In a recent email exchange, Mr. Hillier offered to help address some parking issues along Central Avenue.
    - CA had to remind him that he currently has an Enforcement Order with a Cease & Desist and still needs to submit a plan for ConCom review and permission to move forward on the empty parcel that he previously cleared without a permit.
  - JG suggested CA let Mr. Hillier know that the Commission is getting impatient for a plan to be submitted.
    - Fines are always a possibility if noncompliance continues to be an issue.
  - JG also noted (during Member Updates) that the ZBA recently reviewed a variance request for a property on Groton-Harvard Road.
    - The wetland system that passes through the Compassionate Care parcels further on runs under Groton-Harvard Road on its way to Balch Pond.
    - The wetland system is a real system, not just an inconsequential 'drainage ditch'.
- **8:18 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
  - BT moved to adjourn; MP 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.

**Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Jessica G. Gugino, Clerk**

**Date Minutes Approved by Conservation Commission:** \_\_\_\_\_

*8/8/2019*

**Signature Indicating Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Jessica T. Gugino*