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TOWN OF AYER
TOWN CLERK

Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

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

Minutes for 4/28/2022

Location: Remote Meeting via Zoom, accessible to public, due to ongoing COVID 19 Pandemic

Present: Jon Schmalenberger (JS, Chair), George Bacon (GB, Member), Jennifer Amaya (JA, Member), Jessica Gugino (JG, Interim Office Administrator; Member/Clerk)

Not Present: Mark Phillips (MP, Vice-Chair)

APAC Recorded: Yes

7:03 PM – Open Meeting

- **Confirmation of Agenda**

- An RDA Meeting for 8 Standish Avenue was postponed to a later agenda.
- GB moved to confirm the agenda as amended; JA 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously by Roll Call Vote 4-0.

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- GB moved to accept the minutes for 4/14/2022 as written; JA 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously by Roll Call Vote 4-0.

- **Public Input**

- No input.

- **Discussion:** 9 Jonathan Drive

- No one present so discussion cancelled.

- **Conservation Agent Position**

- JS conferred individually with ConCom members and said commissioners were ready to proceed with recommending that the Town Manager appoint Heather Hampson to the position of Agent.
 - GB so moved; JA 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously 4-0.
- MP, who was not present for this meeting, had previously conveyed his support of Ms. Hampson's appointment to JS.
- Ms. Hampson thanked the Commission for this opportunity and expressed her excitement to take on this new job within Town Hall starting on June 6.

- **Conservation Commission Office and Member Updates**

- Pond View Estates
 - JG received an inquiry from a resident at Sunflower Court, in Pond View Estates.
 - The resident was asked to contact the Commission by the Homeowner's Association, regarding plans to convert stone and a bit of lawn into patio.



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- Since this was conversion of already-disturbed land (lawn) into patio, it was decided that ConCom had no issues with this, provided that the conversion of a portion of lawn into patio did not extend up to the backyard fencing at the top of a retaining wall to Long Pond.
 - JG will convey this in writing to the resident.
- Long Pond Dam
 - Beaver Solutions, Inc., has now installed a new flow control device (aka 'beaver deceiver') at this outfall dam.
 - The previous deceiver, installed in 2014, failed last fall due to beaver interference.
 - This led to the impoundment of more water than desired and consequent flooding along the bank and around the access road to this area from Wright Road.
 - The pond level has already dropped considerably since the new installation.
- Flannagan Pond Access Feasibility Study
 - The Community Preservation Act funding grant article for \$25,000 passed at Spring Town Meeting on 4/25.
 - The study will look at the pros and cons at 7 or so possible access points and will propose a final site and preliminary design, to include ADA accessibility and nearby parking.
- **7:39 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
 - ConCom's next meeting on 5/12 will continue to be via Zoom.
 - GB moved to adjourn; JA 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously by Roll Call Vote 4-0.

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Jessica G. Gugino, Clerk

Date / Signature of Approval:

5/12/2022 