

Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 * 978-772-8249 * 978-772-8208 (fax)

Minutes for **05/13/10** – **Approved 7/8/10**

Location: Town Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room

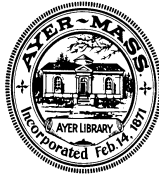
Members present: Bill Daniels (BD, Chair), George Bacon (GB), Takashi Tada (TT, Clerk), Jessica Gugino (JG), Becky DaSilva-Conde (CA, Conservation Administrator)

Not present: Dave Bodurtha (DB, Vice-Chair)

APAC taped: No

7:45 PM – Open Meeting

- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Agenda modifications**
 - Move General Business to the end
 - Dave Moulton, Stratton Hill Subdivision, will be on next meeting agenda.
 - JG asked Mr. Moulton about plans to install check dams to help control runoff.
 - Mr. Moulton said he would consult with Dan Nason (Ayer DPW).
- **Public Meeting: Oak Ridge Loop Trail & Autumn Ridge Conservation Restriction**
 - Steve Smith provided an update on the new Oak Ridge Loop Trail, and presented the Baseline Documentation Report for the Autumn Ridge CR.
 - The Oak Ridge Loop Trail (proposed)
 - Proposed trail had to be revised – previous route strayed off Town land.
 - New route was surveyed with handheld GPS; members of Ayer Greenway Committee (Eric Marshall and TT) will prepare trail map for next meeting.
 - Autumn Ridge CR Baseline Documentation
 - Mr. Smith provided handouts and reviewed the contents of the baseline report for the former Smith family property. The report is essentially complete.
 - Mr. Smith acknowledged the many volunteers who have helped out.
 - Next step is to have the Affidavits signed and notarized.
 - Mr. Smith left the complete Baseline Documentation binder with CA.
 - CA will facilitate signatures and notarizations.
 - Commission thanked and commended Mr. Smith for his excellent work.
- **Public Meeting: RDA – Deck Expansion, 2 Wright Way**
 - Keith Henderson presented a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for addition of a new screened porch.
 - The porch is just within 100 feet of Sandy Pond.
 - The existing porch is not accessible from inside the house.
 - The existing slab will remain in place; porch will be attached to slab with anchors.
 - One new hole will be dug. Soil from the hole will be reused in the garden on the far side of lot (away from buffer zone).
 - The yard area is flat.
 - GB moved to issue Negative Determination; JG 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.

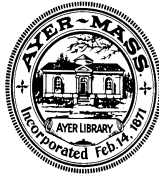


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- **Public Hearing (cont'd): Land Use Regulations – Pine Meadow Conservation Land**
 - BD read the revised draft regulations.
 - Items passed for discussion: 3, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, and liability disclaimer.
 - Item 3: Ground rules
 - Grammatical improvements.
 - Create separate item to state that wildlife/habitat shall not be harassed/disturbed.
 - Item 6: Camping
 - Patrick Hughes stated that the Ayer Greenway Committee is not in favor of camping on the conservation land.
 - GB supported camping with written authorization; other members were opposed to camping.
 - Item 8: Boats
 - Kayaks, canoes, etc. may be used, but not stored, on the conservation land.
 - Item 11: Hunting
 - BD read DB's statement in opposition to hunting on the conservation land.
 - TT also stated opposition to hunting on the conservation land.
 - JG stated support for turkey and deer hunting as part of ecosystem management. Weapons should be limited to shotgun and bow (no rifles).
 - GB stated support for deer hunting as part of ecosystem management. There is no need for turkey hunting.
 - BD reluctantly stated his openness to deer hunting with shotgun.
 - Members in favor of deer hunting on conservation land, in accordance with MassWildlife shotgun season regulations: 3 (BD, GB, JG)
 - Members opposed to hunting on conservation land: 2 (DB, TT).
 - Item 13:
 - Added exception for law enforcement.
 - Item 15: Violations
 - Members revised the item pertaining to violations.
 - Liability Disclaimer
 - BD revised to show the M.G.L. citation in parenthesis.
 - GB moved to approve the revised land use regulations for Pine Meadow Conservation Land; JG 2nd.
 - Motion approved by vote of 3-2.
- **Discussion: Shed on former Tooker property**
 - Mike Hawes, 102 Oak Ridge Drive, introduced a proposal to move the shed on the new conservation land (former Tooker parcel) onto his lot on Oak Ridge Drive.
 - BD asked Mr. Hawes to email his proposal; BD will forward to Town Administrator/Counsel for review.
- **Discussion: Shepley's Hill Landfill – Geophysical Studies**

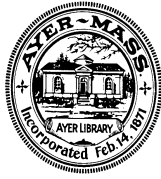


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- Mike Penko, US Army Corps of Engineers, presented the Army's proposed geophysical studies around the Shepley's Hill Landfill (part of Superfund environmental remediation at former Fort Devens).
- The work plan includes a partial wetlands delineation report, prepared by Sovereign.
 - Wetlands not fully flagged; some DEP wetlands data included.
- Army is proposing to conduct geophysical transects using acoustic sensors to "survey" the underlying bedrock topography north of the landfill.
 - The bedrock defines the physical limits of the groundwater arsenic plume emanating from the landfill.
 - The transects will involve clearing vegetation to a width of 3 feet.
 - Monitoring wells will be installed. Depending on the data results, the wells could be removed or become permanent wells. The wells require clearing a path up to 10 feet wide to accommodate the drilling rig.
 - Work is expected to begin next week. The Work Plan has not yet been developed.
 - The study will become part of the forthcoming Final Focused Feasibility Study for Shepley's Hill Landfill and Plow Shop Pond.
- **Discussion: Pond Weed Control RFP**
 - GB: Revise to allow the consultants to determine and recommend the herbicides to use.
 - Also, require water testing for residual herbicides.
 - It will be up to the consultants to propose how they will verify 85% success rate.
 - Proposals shall include establishment of baseline conditions and quantification of results.
 - TT lobbied for addition of *Phragmites* as a target species at Pine Meadow Pond.
 - Announcement/distribution of RFP:
 - *Public Spirit* and direct mail to ACT and Lycott.
 - Reply by 6/9/10.
- **Payables**
 - PC Doctor: \$75.00 – for CA's computer support.
 - JG moved to approve payment of PC Doctor invoice; GB 2nd.
 - Lowell Sun: \$280.05 – for multiple legal notices (Cornellier, Galofaro, and Arnold)
 - JG moved to approve payment of Lowell Sun invoice.
- **Announcements**
 - MBTA provided notification of herbicide application along commuter rail line.
 - National Grid provided notification of herbicide application along utility right-of-way.
 - 122 Sandy Pond Road – Application for Keeping of Fowl
 - CA will notify applicant to file an RDA (activity in buffer zone).
 - MassWildlife notification of trout stocking.
- **Member Issues/Updates**
 - JG: There is a large loam pile on the corner of Wright Road and Snake Hill Road.



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- BD: Eagles Nest subdivision (Canney Bros.) – Replaced rain garden #2 with catch basin and underground storage system, per Ducharme & Dillis (engineers).
- CA: Bennetts Brook siltation issues
 - Uncontrolled runoff from Ridgeview/Pingry Hill subdivision appears to be fouling Bennetts Brook.
- **10:40 – Adjourn Meeting**
 - JG moved to adjourn; GB 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.