

Town of Ayer Conservation Commission

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

Minutes for **07/22/10** – **Approved 01/27/11**

Location: Town Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room

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

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

APAC taped: Yes

7:10 PM – Open Meeting

- **Discussion: CDBG Grant Wish List**

- Sue Provencher from Economic Development collected survey responses from Commissioners.
- Deadline is 9/3/10.

- **Accounts Payable**

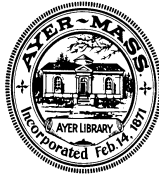
- Lowell Sun: \$52.70 – RDA legal notice, 83-85 West Main Street (check not rec'd).
- Lowell Sun: \$54.40 – NOI legal notice, Lot 9, Patriot Way (check rec'd).

- **Announcements**

- CA: rec'd memo re: Sandy Pond fish kill
 - Persistent high temperatures and lack of rainfall resulted in low pond level, high concentration of algae, and reduced oxygen for fish.
 - Nothing unusual reported at Town Beach.
- Alert: The invasive vine known as “mile-a-minute” has been found in Littleton. Be on the lookout for the vine in overgrown clearings, power lines, and other early successional habitats.
- CA: Received a call from Rail Trail user re: dried up wetlands along the trail.
 - Possibly due to dry summer conditions?

- **Discussion: Flannagan (Fletchers) Pond water levels**

- Martha Craft, resident on Flannagan Pond, expressed concern about the low water level and high weed density on the pond.
- Ms. Craft asked if the boards at Balch Dam had gone missing.
 - BD explained that it is the Fire Department's responsibility to check on the dam boards.
- Ms. Craft asked if the Town's weed control plan includes Flannagan Pond.
 - BD said that the limitations of the weed control budget preclude treatment of Flannagan Pond.
- JG pointed out that the water level at Lond Pond (upstream from Flannagan Pond) is also low; there is no flow over the dam at Long Pond.
- *NOTE: Unusually dry weather in late spring/summer 2010 resulted in the issuance of a Drought Advisory by the Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force. The advisory was issued for Northeast and Central regions effective August 13. The advisory was lifted November 19.*



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- **Discussion: Driveway Regrading, 32 Wright Road**
 - Harry Zane, 32 Wright Road, discussed a possible driveway regrading project at his residence.
 - Commission gave Mr. Zane permission in 2008 to prune, by hand, the vegetation growing alongside his driveway.
 - There is a BVW near the eastern edge of his driveway.
 - Commission indicated that regrading of the driveway would require a NOI filing, with wetland delineation and a recordable plan.
 - Mr. Zane asked if he could prepare the NOI by himself.
 - BD said probably not, unless Mr. Zane was able to meet DEP guidelines.
 - Commission explained the NOI filing and review process to Mr. Zane.
 - Mr. Zane asked if he could remove the hay bales that are in place for the Stratton Hill project.
 - Commission said no. The hay bales must remain in place for the duration of the Stratton Hill work.
- **Reorganization**
 - Given DB's absence, Commissioners agreed to wait until next meeting to discuss reorganization of the board.
- **Member Issues**
 - BD: Will issue a Violation Notice for tree clearing in buffer zone, north of West Main Street bridge.
 - BD: Would like Commission to be more proactive in educating people who live near wetland resource areas.
 - JG: Suggested weekday evening or Saturday morning "quick visits" to look at sites that have been mentioned as possible violations.
 - BD said the DEP's online permit database could be used to generate a list of sites with outstanding permits.
 - CA: Mentioned the difficulty in identifying violations and compliance issues such as parking of vehicles next to ponds.
 - CA: Is having ongoing problems with the reliability of emails and website links.
 - Should require a hardcopy of all official correspondence.
- **Executive Session pursuant to MGL Ch. 39, Sec. 23B, Exemption #3**
 - 8:45 PM – GB moved to adjourn the meeting for the purpose of entering into Executive Session, pursuant to Exemption 3; TT 2nd.
 - Motion approved by unanimous roll call vote.
 - 9:00 PM – GB moved to adjourn Executive Session and reopen the meeting expressly to adjourn; JG 2nd.
 - Motion approved by unanimous roll call vote.



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- **9:00 – Adjourn Meeting**
 - GB moved to adjourn; JG 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.