

Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2013
Ashfield Town Hall

Present: Lester Garvin, Chair (LG)
Brian Clark (BC)
Dave Fessenden (DF)
Phil Lussier (PL)
Janet Clark (JC)
Brittany Martin, Scribe (BM)
Mark Stinson, Guest (MS)
Craig Purington, Guest (CP)

1. The meeting is called to order at 7:42pm.
2. Board reviews the October 23, 2013 minutes. PL moves to accept the amended minutes, BC seconds and all vote in favor.
3. Board discusses beaver issue on Bray Road. MS states that unless the beaver dam causes issues that are a threat to public health, the Board cannot approve an emergency work order. MS further states that if the work being done to remove the beaver issue is in a jurisdiction area, there has to be a request for determination or an NOI submitted. BM will email Duncan Colter regarding this issue.
4. MS reports on the Pleasant Street culvert. MassDOT doesn't have the funds at this time to go in and take the culvert out and replace it correctly. MS states that he will speak with his supervisor tomorrow regarding this issue and see what he is able to find out.
5. LG states that Tom Poissant will be attending the December 11, 2013 meeting to discuss storm water drainage.
6. Board discusses storm water drainage. MS states that he is willing to come to town on a mutually agreed upon date and time to look at some of the culverts with Board members so that the town is able to take care of the streams to the best of their ability before a storm hits and they are destroyed. JC states that this would be a good proactive way to take care of the streams. BM will email the Board the link to "Unpaved Roads BMP Manual".
7. Board opens hearing for Cynthia Clark RDA on Title 5 septic system upgrade. Craig Purington is here to represent Cynthia Clark. The current system is failing. Craig Purington states that he doesn't know how old the system is. MS states that under regulations, if the leach field is over 50 feet from a resource area, the Board would only need to look at erosion sedimentation controls. JC states that the slope is a gentle one from the base of the work to the pond. PL moves to close the hearing, JC seconds and all vote in favor.

8. Board reviews pending on-line building permits:
 - a. 669 Creamery Road, Ramon Sears, 16' x 14' storage shed. BC approves during meeting.
 - b. 430 Pfersick Road, David Thibalt, install concrete piers underneath existing timber frame storage barn. BC approves during meeting.
 - c. 409 Main Street, Timothy Page, replacing stonewall under shed in 1800's house. Sill work possible. Stream runs through property but it is more than 200' away. BC approves during meeting.

9. MS discusses beaver issues. MS states that if beaver ponds have been in place for years and years the dam will stay because they are so stable. He further states that the newer beaver dams may eventually breach and we need to maintain and keep the area clean. The Board needs to determine how big the dam is and what kind of stream it is located on to determine whether an RDA or NOI is needed. The beaver dams may interfere with fish migration so if there is a screen put in, it has got to be kept clean so the fish are able to move up and down the stream and the mesh needs to be large enough to keep the beavers from plugging up the stream. MS further states that the Conservation Commission doesn't regulate beaver activity.

10. PL motions to adjourn the meeting, JC seconds and all vote in favor.

Meeting adjourns at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Martin, Scribe