

Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2014
Ashfield Town Hall

Present: Lester Garvin, Chair (LG)
Brian Clark (BC)
Janet Clark, (JC)
Brittany Martin, Scribe (BM)
John Engleman, Guest (JE)

Absent: Dave Fessenden (DF)
Phil Lussier (PL)

1. The meeting is called to order at 7:38pm.
2. Board reviews the February 12, 2014 minutes. JC moves to accept the minutes as is, BC seconds and all vote in favor.
3. Board discusses the reorganization of files. LG states that he and BM went through some of the files two weeks ago and they will continue to organize as needed. Board agrees that LG and BM will continue to organize and keep the Board up-to-date as to their progress.
4. Board discusses Tennessee Gas Transmission Line. Board reviews the Transmission Line Land Ownership and DEP Wetland Resources in Ashfield map that LG has prepared. LG states that it will be difficult to build the gas line through Ashfield. JC agrees and further states that there are so many resource areas and that home owners in other areas are convinced that this will pollute and ruin their land. BC states that the company is digging horizontally in some areas to get through stream areas. LG states that in addition to the resource areas, the topography would be very difficult to work around. Board welcomes JE to the meeting. JE states that he was contacted to have his land surveyed, to which he said no. JE further states that if this gas line was installed, it would pass right past his front door and he is concerned about it. JE states that there will be a lot of land clearing, destruction of land and possible contamination; that at least 50% of the gas will be exported; there have been reports of significant leaks in schools in Boston; in severe weather if something was so fall on the line, as it isn't very deep in the ground, it may explode; there are highly toxic additives in the natural gas to pump it through the lines, so it isn't clean. JC states that she would like to see wells tested before and after the gas line installation. JE thinks the best approach is to find another route, that there is too much rock to blast through in Ashfield. Board will continue to retrieve information as to the progress of this possible installation.
5. Board discusses National Forest Designation for Massachusetts. LG hands out documents for the Board to review. LG states that there may be federal funds available to purchase development rights on forest land. Board will review documents.

6. Board reviews pending on-line building permits:
 - a. There are no permits to approve at this time.

7. JC motions to adjourn the meeting, BC seconds and all vote in favor.

Meeting adjourns at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Martin, Scribe