

**Ashfield Conservation Commission  
January 27, 2016**

<b>Members Present:</b> Lester Garvin, Chair (LG) Phil Lussier (PL) Brian Clark (BC) Janet Clark (JC) <b>Members Absent:</b> Anne Madocks (AM)	<b>Others Present:</b> Ron Coler (RC) Mark Stinson (MS) Emily Boss (EB) Robyn and Dennis Crowningsheild (R&DC)
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1. LG called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.
2. MS spoke to the Commission about river crossings and the snowmobile clubs. Historically, MA Fish and Game agreed clubs could use and upgrade trails and crossings. If the improvements to crossings involve decking only, then no permits are required from DEP. If footings or other in the wet changes are involved, then a RDA and permit are required. A skidder bridge is light on the environment, but must comply with the stream crossing standard and involve a NOI. Pallets placed across a stream or intermittent stream or other "wet" area are considered fill and must be removed in the spring. Corduroy roads are fill. Pedestrian trails maintenance through wet areas need to assure whether these are resource areas or just a wet spot. Delineation may be required.
3. RC submitted a report on the removal of fanwort from Ashfield Lake. (Attached). 5600 pounds were removed this year and carefully composted away from resource areas. Next year the survey of existing fanwort will be used to design the dive program (the DASH Technique) The permitting will involve an NOI for this "Ecological Restoration Limited Project", as recommended by MS. The fee will be waived. MS will send RC a model submission for this type of project from Brimfield. On reviewing the NOI, the ConsComm will issue an Order of Conditions. Also, Ashfield Lake is not indicated to be within a Rare Species area. MS said the abutter notices can be just a "certificate of mailing" indicating a list of recipients instead of the certified-mail-return-receipt process.
4. R&DC are creating a conservation easement for land on Stroheker Road, with Scenic Byway funds. EB of the Franklin Land Trust said they would monitor the land for the stewardship responsibility. Will the Town of Ashfield Conservation Commission hold the restriction? An example of this kind of arrangement in the Town of Charlemont was submitted by EB. The ConsCom voted to accept this, pending review by Town Counsel. EB will approach the Ashfield Selectboard about this offer, and expect all signatures to be in place by September 2016. PLEASE SEND APPROVED MINUTES TO EB.

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Janet Clark

**Meeting Documents:**

Crowningshield CR description and map from Franklin Land Trust

Fanwort Eradication Data, Ron Coler, 1/27/16

*Guidance for Aquatic Plant Management in Lakes and Ponds*, MassDEP, April 2004