

**Ashfield Conservation Commission
May 27, 2015**

<p>Members Present: Lester Garvin, Chair (LG) Phil Lussier (PL) Janet Clark (JC) Brian Clark (BC) Dave Fessenden (DF)</p>	<p>Members Absent:</p>
<p>Others Present: Anne Madocks, Scribe Judy Haupt Kate Wilkins, Tighe and Bond Zach Baum, Tighe and Bond Alden Gray Will and Pat Thayer</p>	

1. LG called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.
2. Review of minutes from 5/13/15. JC moved to accept, PL seconded, unanimous.
3. Judy Haupt, Recreation Commission, completed an inventory of invasives around the lake edge. Gout weed and knot weed in upper park, some multiflora rose around tennis courts, bishop's weed in spillway, some bedstraw in lawn, and a little bittersweet. On the lake side of dirt driveway, they are mowing every other week to manage the knotweed. Other areas around parking lot managed as a field, mowed two times per year, which is not enough to manage the knotweed. DCR recommends weekly mowing, regular "stomping parties", and Roundup spraying annually – spot spraying on cut stems. For the patches of gout weed around the park, recommend spray with 25% Roundup and then cover with black plastic, repeat numerous times. Multiflora is being cut to prevent seed from ripening. JC has no concerns about the recommended treatments. PL no concerns, DF admirable effort to manage these plants. Alden Gray - Home Depot now has a 1 gallon sprayer with an electric pump with a very precise spray. Removing the rhizome early in the season, before it is well established, can control multiflora plants. JC Be careful of the *Rosa rugosa* native rose in the area too. DF Ashfield doesn't allow roadside spraying.
4. LG Checked the WMECO site on Beldingville Road next Bear River just beyond the bridge. Area has been seeded and in good shape.
5. PL Mark Stinson responded to inquiry about how to permit micro-hydro. (PowerSpout) Could be handled as easily as an RDA in some situations. AG has designed a system and commented on the design of it.
6. 8:00 Field Field Wall RDA Hearing – Zach Baum from Tighe and Bond reviewed 75% designs for reconstruction of Field Wall's retaining wall. The Town and Field Board are looking to replace the wall. Existing stairs off of Bronson Ave and small stairs near intersection of Thayer and Bronson. Some erosion issues near playground area and on slope. Proposing to replace existing wall with pre-cast concrete block gravity wall. Looks like natural stone to maintain appearance of existing wall. Replacing both steps. West end – portion of wall will be removed and regarded to a grassed slope. Re-grading along back of whole wall, bringing grade up for drainage.

Drainage installed behind wall; west end drain to stone splash apron, on east end it will connect to drainage on Thayer Road. On the east slope, a geocell will be used to stabilize the slope next to the stairs to reinforce to prevent erosion. Questions were asked about lifespan of the material. Catchbasin at top of slope and connected to system on Thayer Road. Tree and brush clearing – cleared on slope and within 10' of the wall. Staging on west end of field; east end a property owner has offered an area for staging as well. Finish surface will be loam, seed and mowed. South side of wall will have an area that can be mowed. Contractor will install temporary 6' high chain link fence, straw wattles for erosion control. Stairs will be pre-cast concrete blocks on crushed stone with pipe railing.

Abutters can engage contractor individually to remove soil at the toe of the slope to provide an enlarged flat area of their yards. Estimated construction timeline is 6 months.

JC Our concern is runoff if there is a three day storm event and flood exacerbation. Erosion control details for straw wattles and catchbasin. Straw wattles are staked and have better track record of being installed properly. No questions from the audience. DF What is the cost? \$40,700 cost for design. PL moved to close hearing, JC seconded; unanimous.

7. Emergency Certification for vacuuming lake Fanwort – Reason for emergency is a small time window for vacuum removal. Start date is 6/1/15 for permit, 30 days. PL What is the status of water chestnut in the lake? Not sure. Commission members signed certification.
8. OOC for Ashfield Lake Dam Repair – LG read conditions identified in permit. Commission members signed permit.
9. Online Building Permits – 134 Ashfield Mountain Road – Demolish workshop and carriage house and building 2 car garage. Work outside of resource area. Signed off.
10. 8:43 adjourn.