

**Ashfield Conservation Commission
May 13, 2015**

<p>Members Present: Lester Garvin, Chair (LG) Dave Fessenden (DF) Phil Lussier (PL) Janet Clark (JC) Brian Clark (BC)</p>	<p>Members Absent:</p>
<p>Others Present: Anne Madocks, Scribe Dan Buttrick, P.E., Tighe and Bond (DB) Kate Wilkins, Tighe and Bond, Professional Wetland Scientist (KW) Jackie and Dick Marsh Julie Thibault</p>	

1. LG called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.
2. Reviewed minutes of 4/8/15. PL moved to accept; DF seconded; unanimous
3. Bull Frog Bed and Breakfast Inn1629 Conway Road, Ashfield – Want to install a septic system. Tank is proposed behind house; 2 boxes – one with a pump that will send effluent into a forced main around the pond across a 50’ grade change, to the leach field at the top of the hill behind the pond. The pipe is designed to drain so as not to hold water and freeze. Simple ditch created and backfilled on same day for 2” pipe. Erosion control measures will include sediment barrier, then seeded and mulched. Commission expressed no concerns about construction practices. Purpose of the new system is to replace an undersized septic system that is inadequate for the number of bedrooms in the house. Unanimous approval.
4. Fanwort Removal, Ashfield Lake – Emergency Certification to be issued in late May to early June (30 day period). Vacuum procedure to remove the plants. Can only be removed at a certain time of year. PL Will roots be removed by vacuum procedure?
5. Email from Judy Haupt, Invasive Controls at Beldin Park – In upper park along dirt driveway west of the picnic tables. Proposing to mowing, frequent foot stomping and spot treatment of Roundup for Japanese knotweed. Do we need approval for spot application of a round up? JC Could they come in and describe the application and who will do it?
6. Martha Tirk and Phylis Kirkpatrick, Vernal Pool Certification – Nancy Garvin worked with both property owners to certify vernal pools on their respective properties.
7. 8:00pm LG opened the hearing for the Ashfield Lake Dam Public Hearing, Dan Buttrick and Kate Wilkins from Tighe and Bond present. File number issued by DEP. PL read the legal ad. KW submitted abutter cards for approximately 50 abutters including all lake front properties because of the drawdown. 2006, 2012, 2014 inspections classified dam as high hazard dam meaning loss of life possible if the dam fails. Some deterioration in dam in recent inspections so rated in fair condition. Town’s insurance rating can go up with this rating. Time to address issues before they are too bad and expensive. 1990 last rehabilitation, done by State. DB walked the Commission through the existing site plan. Some trees growing into embankment; spillway is deteriorated and leaks under some conditions. DB observed leaks squirting out at bottom of dam at last inspection; hydrology and hydraulics analysis to look at flood profile design storm (15 ½” storm event in 24 hours). Under this scenario, water level would come up to the top of

the dam and dike embankment, waves would wash over and could cause dam to fail. Proposing to make some improvements to help dam handle that size storm.

KW reviewed the resource areas within project area. DB Dike along north east is proposed to be reconstructed as an 18" concrete block parapet wall 100' long design to deflect waves. 32" maple to stay, several small trees on top of dike to be removed, with several small bollards planned to be installed around dry hydrant on the north side. Pipe draining from road into the pond, flapper dam on pipe to prevent reverse flow. Proposing to be installed in the wet, but a coffer dam is possible for dry construction. LG How will concrete blocks be secured? DB Very heavy and cemented together with New England ledge stone appearance. Proposed to be 18" tall.

DB – Selectmen negotiated an easement off of the dam by 20' to allow for future maintenance. Vegetation piping of water along root, windfall and root ball popping, shading can prevent vegetation from establishing. Raising elevation of the dam by about 1' with soil and trap rock; top is up to 12-14" minimum width. Dense grade crushed stone walking path to be installed due to heavy foot traffic.

Spillway – Raising crest is difficult due to narrowness. Proposing to remove trap rock riprap and replace with larger riprap to steepen slopes and widen crest. East side of spillway, wetlands will be hand cut and removed stumps to maintain as lower growing vegetation, if needed. Bridge over dam will be raised by 6". Bridge will be removed and painted.

Low pressure grout rehabilitation of the spillway. In 1990 cracks sealed with polyurethane and now shrinking. Masonry will be repointed, drill rig will drill vertically down the top about 14' – series of seven holes on 4' center; then drill second set after they are dry. Cement, water, sand, bentonite clay mixture will be used to help material stay put.

Drawdown – In 1990 lake was almost completely drawn down. Estimate lake is 18' deep. Asking for a drawdown of up to 3' to allow work to happen. Town applying for MassWorks Grant in June to do work. Timing of project uncertain and awaiting funding. Designed an approach that could be done any time of year. Alternatives include a multi-stage coffer dam or build coffer dam around low level outlet which would require a 1' drawdown.

JC What is the recovery for the lake for maximum drawdown? DB Depends on time of year. DB Seeking some flexibility relative to time of year for work due to how project lines up with funding. About 1 ½ months of work. MA GEIR 3" max draw down per day; when refilling have to maintain downstream flows too.

Culvert replacement behind Decker Machine Works – Series of subsurface toe drains that discharge to the stream, installed in 1990 reconstruction. On top of that is a stormwater culvert 12" pipe intended to handle 30 acre watershed and pipes off Route 116, all draining to the wetland area which drains to the culvert. Decker parking lot is lower in elevation and gets washout several times per year. Proposing to install a larger culvert 30" concrete pipe, and replace swale with larger rip rap. On inlet side add some riprap to protect area from erosion resulting in 9 sq.ft. of fill in BVW. Raise Decker parking lot by 1 ½' to reduce flow rate; stabilizing some of the parking lot with a geotextile web to handle some overflow. Not seeking to meet MA

Stream Crossing Standards because open bottom culvert would drain the wetland. Not meeting openness ratios because of special constraints.

PL moved to close hearing; DF seconded; unanimous.

8. Online Building Permits –
Pepyn, Route 112 – Construct garage next to Route 112. Plans not accessible on line. Commission wants to request a site visit.
9. WMECO Site Visit – On Beldingville Road, WMECO left a plank in the wetland area. It was removed today.
10. Sheralyn Scott, Bronson Ave – Erosion problem and wants a site visit. LG circulated a list of wetland scientists that could be given to her.
11. Rawlings Lake House – Wants to do work on the wall of the lake house. LG will call him and invite him to meeting to discuss the project.

9:27pm JC motion to adjourn; PL seconded; unanimous.