

**Ashfield Conservation Commission
July 23, 2014**

Members Present: Lester Garvin, Chair (LG) Brian Clark (BC) Phil Lussier (PL) Janet Clark (JC)	Members Absent: David Fessenden (DF)
Others Present: Richard Pantermehl (RP) Anne Madocks, Scribe (AM)	

1. The meeting was called to order by Lester Garvin at 7:40 pm.
2. The Commission reviewed the minutes of the June 11, 2014 meeting. LG moved to accept the minutes, JC seconded the motion, minutes approved unanimously, and BC abstained. Minutes for meetings in April and May need to be submitted to the Commission for review and approval. PL will send May 28th minutes to Lynn, Assistant Town Clerk.
3. JC and LG conducted a site visit at Ashfield Lake to evaluate a request to remove a fallen tree from the water along the border of two properties owned by Ken Condon and Ray and Marsha Gray. There are two 18-20" trees laying in the water at the lake edge, roots upright. Downed tree on Gray side is a maple; fallen oak tree on Condon property. Mr. Gray requesting trees be removed because they pose a hazard to swimmers. He is willing to remove both trees, and the Condon's have agreed to allow the work on their property. LG requested the bank at the site of the removal be secured afterward with seed and mulch. LG and JC support removing the trees. All members agreed.
4. JC stated some lake abutters want to clear algae from the lake in front of their property as it poses a nuisance for swimming. JC stated there are numerous types of algae, some native, some not, and can be a nuisance. PL looked for a brochure on controlling nuisance aquatic plants but couldn't find it. PL commented that there can be issues with some forms of algae removal including lowering the level of the lake for winter frost killing of lake, mechanical dredging, and herbicide removal. All of those have problems that would require a NOI. Harvesting algae by hand is not an issue, particularly if isolated. All members agreed.
5. JC raised the issue of the Tennessee Gas pipeline proposal and a request by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) for a host community to hold a meeting for western Massachusetts Conservation Commissions about the project. JC would like to know more information about the objective of the meeting and what sort of information or messaging will be delivered. PL does not want to be the organizer of this event because he believes it will require significant monitoring and policing due to the large, emotionally charged crowd it will likely draw. Not sure how it could be limited to only Conservation Commissions. MACC does have a meeting scheduled for Ashby on July 30th. JC It would be good to be informed about what other Conservation Commissions are doing and how they are

thinking about this issue. JC proposed to revisit MACC's request in three weeks after the Ashby meeting. Members present agreed.

6. Richard Pantermehl hearing on a shed and concrete pad for an outside wood furnace called to order at 8:00 pm. RP has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for an outdoor boiler and shelter for his residence on Ford Road. The proposed site is a yard with lawn behind his house. The site map shows a pond with an intermittent stream nearby. The project includes a 20x12 concrete pad and a 12x12 pine board shelter for the boiler. PL The project is an exempt minor activity according to 310 CMR 10.02 (2) (b) (1) (e) as an accessory use to a residential structure more than 50 feet from the resource area. Since Mr. Pantermehl was not present at this time, JC moved to continue the hearing to such time as the applicant arrives or meeting is near adjournment.

The hearing was resumed at 8:25 pm with Mr. Pantermehl in attendance. RP submitted the application fee check and described the specifications of his project. JC requested information about the stream and pond. BC located the site on Google Earth which had recent images from May 2014. RP stated he is willing to install silt fence at the edge of the construction zone. PL No other conditions but would like to condition the project so that soil is stockpiled on the opposite, away from the stream, with silt fence. BC moved motion to approve, JC seconded, unanimously approved.

7. LG There has been no new information submitted on Mary Quigley's South River Project. LG updated the Commission about the details of the project. Mary Quigley has been advised to submit an RDA. LG will follow up with her about their plans.

8. On-line Building Permits Review/Approval

BC - Dwight Scott, builder - 1276 Conway Road, owner Bernice Coleman: Remove existing concrete platform and install three 8" concrete piers, wood deck, roof supports. JC A site map would be useful, footprint isn't changing, some improvement. BC Located site on Google Earth, site roughly 400' from the river. PL Moved to approve it. JC Seconded. BC Signed off/approved electronically.

9. Items not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting
PL Double Edge Theater performance platform constructed of stone on the bank of the river that was not reviewed or approved by Conservation Commission. Wednesday 7/16/14 Greenfield Recorder picture of actress lying in the water on a constructed stone platform. BC confirmed that some scenes take place on the bank or in the water. PL Might be wise to advise them of the regulations. LG We could request a site visit and will contact them. PL Supports the idea. Past history of construction without approval in resource areas.

At 8:40 pm JC motioned to adjourn the meeting, BC seconded, unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted, Anne Madocks, Scribe