

**Ashfield Conservation Commission  
Wednesday, September 24, 2014**

<b>Members Present:</b> Lester Garvin, Chair (LG) Brian Clark (BC) Janet Clark (JC) David Fesseden (DF) Phil Lussier (PL)	<b>Others Present:</b> Anne Madocks, Scribe
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1. Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:35 pm.
2. Minutes for the 9/10/14 meeting were reviewed. JC moved to accept the minutes; BC seconded the motion; unanimous approval; PL abstained.
3. MACC Meeting on 9/16/14 regarding Tennessee Gas Pipeline Project - JC and LG attended a meeting at Shelburne Town Hall sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions regarding pipeline, and provided a copy of the presentation handout from the meeting. Both said MACC gave a very detailed presentation about the role of local Conservation Commissions in the review of this project under the Rivers and Wetlands Protection Acts. MACC recommends Commission document all wetlands and vernal pools now so that they have the information they need to evaluate any alternatives to the route alignment that TNG may put forth for review. Due to the pace at which the permitting is expected to advance on this, Commissions need to be ready to respond immediately in order to best protect resources.

LG shared the route map from TNG's FERC proposal, and a map TNG used in a previous public presentation. There were differences in the proposed alignment between the maps through Ashfield. Kinder Morgan claiming they were avoiding four pristine river crossings in a slide from a recent previous presentation; FERC app maps show they are only avoiding two crossings. All commission members should get on FERC notice list.

JC Commissions will not have a role in the decision about whether or not the pipeline is built. The State and others making the case for it to be needed and determine whether it will be built. FERC will rely on information from the Commissions about resources impacted to determine the best alignment. One important decision – if FERC permits, require state and federal EIS, as well as other entities that will have a role in those. FERC may not require an EIS. JC Commission should encourage citizens to request an EIS, as well as don't build message. FERC may not allow WPA to apply relative to the provision that allows Commissions to hire peer review. FERC will determine "Significant Impact" which will have repercussions about what can be done thereafter in terms of review and permitting.

The large compressor station between the Deerfield River and I91 appears to have been relocated out of Ashfield on the plans. Could be anywhere from Conway to South Deerfield. Kinder Morgan wants a 100' corridor for construction purposes.

JC Town of Groton is preparing a message to landowners asking them to work with the Commission to document the wetland resources on their property in preparation for the TGP project review. Commission could post a letter in the newspaper asking landowners for their help in this, and donations for mapping. Groton town website has a link to pipeline info and status. Letter should encourage folks to document resources because if they don't, they won't have standing in the permitting process. Private wells are also one of the things to document, including springs and aquifers, as well as historic resources.

4. Double Edge Theater, Adam Wright –  
LG Adam Wright came in to talk with Commission and look over maps for areas that were altered, discuss items needed for a permit, and work together on future activities. LG presented aerial maps of the property from past years and explained areas of Conservation Commission jurisdiction. Areas of concern on maps – garden, stone steps into stream, stone temple, and some clearing near river near garden, some dredging to make a deeper pool for a performance. Commission requesting a Limited Projects Notice of Intent be submitted with maps and description of work, and site visit. Adam stated he is very willing to work with Commission and receive guidance. Beavers have been a big problem and have killed a lot of the trees on the bank. They have been actively replanting to save the bank. Just completed a Forest Management plan with forester Mary Wigmore. He will be in touch with some professionals in the area to get some help and meet with the Commission again in a few weeks.
5. A Forest Cutting Plan from Calvin and Joan Clark was received for review and comment. The Clark's chicken coop on their property on Route 116 is falling into the river. Discussion about options for having it removed and cleaned up. LG will contact Calvin Clark about issuing an emergency order for its removal to prevent it from falling into river.
6. On-line Building Permits  
162 Buckland Road – Demolition Permit for an existing non-conforming cottage in conjunction with construction of new single family house. More than 100' away from Ashfield Lake. Approved. Building Permit for new house. More than 100' away from Ashfield Lake. Approved.
7. LG passed out a Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations Survey from Pam Helinek to analyze local wetlands bylaws for Harvard University Capstone Project. Members completed the survey.
8. DF moved to adjourn, JC seconded; unanimous.