

**Ashfield Conservation Commission**  
**December 23, 2015**

**Members Present:**

Lester Garvin, Chair (LG)  
Phil Lussier (PL)  
Anne Madocks (AM)  
Brian Clark (BC)  
Janet Clark (JC)

**Others Present:**

Mike Dufresne, Ashfield Snowmobile Club  
Jeremy Young  
Chris Rawlings

1. LG opened the meeting at 7:35pm
2. Reviewed the minutes from 12/9/15. PL moved to accept the minutes as correct; BC seconded; unanimous.
3. Mike Dufresne, Ashfield Snowmobile Club – LG asked how many bridges does the snowmobile club have and take care of? MD In Ashfield there are 6 bridges: West Road connects down behind Steve Thiebault's property, one re-decking on Watson Spruce Corner Road, 2 behind Decker Machine, two on Mr. Evan's property that are closed at this time by him, but the Conway Snowmobile Club maintains it. The Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts (SAM) consists of 30 member clubs, all volunteer organization, including the Hilltown, Ashfield and Plainfield, Goshen, Buckland Riders clubs. SAM meet once a month and discuss current issues. The bridges in town have been around longer than he has. Hilltown Club formed in 1969. Couldn't even tell you when most were built, and all re-decked many times. Old highline poles is the primary construction, decked with rough sawn green hemlock – 5-7 year lifespan. Timberlock screws for easy construction. Haven't built anything from scratch in years. One repair of any substance was on Watson Spruce Corner Road – Hurricane Sandy stripped the bridge and it was totally lost. Last year some riders went off trail and damaged a fence on private property. After Sandy we used the road. That bridge has been re-decked and pulled back into place with a cable. Sits on top of the bank on both sides. The Club does have an engineered bridge design as a standard for new construction going forward, multiple designs. Worked with DCR and DEP on design and meeting standards. LG Any idea how many ad hoc crossings exist? MD No idea, not sure how to even identify them. PL noted TTOR's Two Bridges Trail and Bullitt Hill linking to Chapel Reservation has an NOI. Gays, Creamery Brook just downstream from Bill Eddy's farm, car-bridge has an NOI.

MF stated the concerns of the Snowmobile Club regarding the closure of two bridges on Mr. Evan's property that are on the main trunk trail connecting the hilltowns to the valley. He was hoping that the Commission will be able to work with Mr. Evans and other property owners to keep trails open.

4. Continuation of Jeremy Young RDA Hearing 8:15pm – BC, JC and PL did a site visit. Observed earth moving from site grading near a resource area. A filter sock is now in place, and seeded

the leach field to stop any erosion. PL The water on site appears to be from a groundwater seep. BC Culvert under road is likely a big source of water. JC – How are you being careful to stabilize the bare ground to prevent erosion? Mr. Young has plans to vegetate the area with a lawn, trees and garden. Commission issuing a Negative Determination #3 for work within the buffer zone but not altering, with conditions to control erosion in the construction zone. PL moved to close hearing; JC seconded; unanimous. Members signed the RDA.

5. LG Correspondence from Emily Boss at Franklin Land Trust offering MADOT Scenic Byways funds to purchase easements on property. Alan Rice of the Planning Board stated the project relates to the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. The property is Crowningshield Farm on Route 112, Ashfield Mountain Road.
6. The utility company Eversource is working off of Hawley Road in resource areas. It appears DEP permitted the work. Temporary bridges installed with a significant road leading up to the bridge. Upgrading insulators on the utility line. PL wondering if we can see the permit. JC – The Conservation Commission should be concerned about roads that are potentially oversized to access utility.
7. Motion to adjourn PL, seconded JC, unanimous 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Madocks