Approved 12/23/15

Ashfield Conservation Commission
MINUTES
December 9, 2015

Members Present: Lester Garvin, Chair (LG) Brian Clark (BC) Janet Clark (JC) Phil Lussier (PL) Anne Madocks (AM)	
Others Present: Russ Evans, 876 Beldingville Road, 664 Pfersik Road Doug Cranson Judy Haupt, Ashfield Recreation Commission	

1. LG called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.
2. Russ Evans - Snowmobiles, hiking trails across streams – Mr. Evans asked the Commission what policy is in place to build a bridge for a snowmobile or hiking trail. He has 200+ acres on Beldingville and Pfersik Roads. He has closed existing trails on his land, and has had problems with a blockage to a culvert on Pfersick Road which caused the culvert to blow out. High tension lines on his property and people use them as a trail. Two spots on Bear River that he wants to cross. One bridge crossing design involves a tractor trail bed that goes from bank to bank; the other would be built out of poles. He said that he wants to see a copy of all the permits for all the bridges in Ashfield.
   PL – It would be helpful if you could tell us a specific bridge at a specific location. Anything before 1968 pre-dates the Wetland Protection Act.
   Mr. Evans asked LG which trail bridges he had been involved with had been permitted. LG noted one bridge that had been installed temporarily by a property owner that could be removed at will.
   The Commission stated that the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards apply. General guidance is also to attempt not to disturb the bank.
   JC – We don't patrol for violations, rather we respond to issues that are brought to our attention. LG and JC – we need to have a conversation with the Snowmobile Club and inventory the bridges.
   LG – What type of bridge would you build, for tractors and snowmobiles? Only need a 5' bridge for snowmobiles. Mr. Evans – One place he is interested in is to be a replacement bridge.
   AM will email Mr. Evans the link to the NOI online because the printer in the office is not working at the time of the meeting to provide him with a paper application.
   Mr. Evans asked about cutting near streams and brooks and what is allowed. LG – On agricultural land, there may be exemptions, depending on certain conditions. Evans will be doing a cut, with a forester from the Worcester area, to remove hemlock infected with wooly adelgid on approximately 15 acres. Timber harvest plan is currently under development. His land is not in Chapter 61 status.

3. Jeremy Young, Hearing for RDA 1832 Hawley Road – Opened hearing at 8:15pm. Mr. Young is proposing a new concrete foundation for a residence, poured concrete footings and concrete

walls, and to install drainage. Ray Gray submitted a rough sketch, not to scale, with the RDA that says the foundation is 75 +/- from a potential resource area. Due to what is on the map, LG recommends a site visit to determine if a BVW exists. BC, JC and PL will do a site visit at 3pm Thursday. PL moved to continue hearing until December 23rd.

4. Notice of Noncompliance 876 Beldingville Road – This notice was issued by DEP due to soils at culvert needing to be stabilized on Highway Department project. The Commission received a copy of the notice.

5. Dock Repair, Ashfield Lake – Judy Haupt from the Ashfield Recreation Commission stated the dock is in need of replacement. The work would entail pulling out the iron piping and replacing it with galvanized pipe. This needs to be a Winter project so it can be done on the ice. The decking if it is Treks needs to be on 12" joists which means the substructure needs to be upgraded. Original dock installed in 1956; last re-decking done in 1988. Jim Cerone, FRCOG Building Inspector, said the design needs a structural engineer to sign off on it. Jim Whalen is the engineer that is coming to look at it. Is a Chapter 91 license needed? Given the standards on DEP's website, a simplified license is appropriate (built before 1984, less than 600'). No NOI required.

6. JC read email from Eugene Benson at MACC regarding the Tennessee Gas pipeline about Commission jurisdiction and process.

7. Online Building Permit –
   1587 Conway Road, Peter Witanen, applicant Chris Murphy – Inside the riverfront area but negligible impact because trench will be temporary and on opposite side of the road and resource area.

8. Motion to adjourn 9:25 pm by JC; seconded by PL.

Meeting Documents:
Email from Judy Haupt to Lester Garvin, dated 11/30/15
Notice of Non-compliance for 876 Beldingville Road