

**Ashfield Conservation Commission
February 10, 2016**

<p>Members Present: Lester Garvin, Chair (LG) Brian Clark (BC) Dave Fessenden (DF) Janet Clark (JC)</p>	<p>Members Absent: Phil Lussier (PL)</p>
<p>Others Present: Stacy Adams, Trails Committee Judy Haupt, Park Commission</p>	

1. LG called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.
2. Reviewed minutes 1/13/16, PL moved to accept as corrected, JC seconded, unanimous.
3. Reviewed minutes 1/27/16, questions pertaining conversation with Mark Stinson regarding snowmobile clubs use of trails on MassDFG property. JC will follow up with MS and get clarification. BC moved to accept, PL seconded; unanimous.
4. LG found Conservation Commission land on Hawley Road, south of TTOR land, given to the town in 1977 for recreation and education by Steimetz family: Brewer Tatro memorial Woods 15.4 acres. Stacy Adams from the Trails Committee is interested in building an interpretive trail. Would like to have the trail head begin on the Trustees property and continue onto the conservation property, as a loop. Judy Haupt – some years ago a proposed trail was mapped out and never built. Tom McCrum may have a map of the proposed trail. LG Commission has had this property for 40 years and not acted; PL Eagle Scouts interested in it some years ago too. Potential for a rustic campsite.
5. BC read the legal notice for the public hearing RDA Park Commission, Town Dock at Town Beach Structural engineer hired to evaluate the dock for rebuilding. JH Representing Park Commission Substructure under deck rotten. Require wet suit in the spring to further evaluate the dock. Dive inspection. Professional Engineer will not sign off on dock and recommended removing it while there is ice. Park Commission would like to remove the dock for the 2016 season and fundraise for the replacement. PL moved to close hearing, BC seconded. Commission issued a Negative Determination.
6. Hawley Road – Eversource road beds were quite large with bridges, fill and riprap. Eversource stated to LG that the Smith Road site was reviewed by DEP, David Foulis – linear project review. LG approached MS with these issues, and no record of DEP reviewing and approving work. DPU regs allow work on ROW for their facilities as long as they don't discharge any materials in to waters of US, exempt if in ROW. LG did a site visit – wetlands delineated, erosion control filter socks and hay bales, disturbed area mulched. PL concerned about the amount of fill and riprap in place at the Hawley Road and that it appears to be within a BVW. 310 CMR 10.02 (2) (A) (2) identifies what is an exempt practice by utilities – maintain and improve but not substantially change. LG will invite Tighe and Bond, and conduct a site visit.
7. Gordon Van Guilder – residence on north end of Ashfield Lake, hemlock trees with wooly adelgid. Wants to remove 25 trees to build a garage at 150' from lake edge. What does the law allow for removal of diseased trees within a resource area, greater than 50% of basal cut. Would a forest cutting plan be appropriate. Consult DEP about what is appropriate. Salvage cut appropriate in a diseased area.

Approved 2/24/16

8. Ron Coler research documented in email dated 2/10/16 regarding film about fracked gas.
9. Motion to adjourn PL, AM seconded, unanimous.