

**Ashfield Conservation Commission
MINUTES
February 11, 2015**

| | |
|--|--|
| Members Present: Lester Garvin, Chair (LG) Brian Clark (BC) Dave Fessenden (DF) Janet Clark (JC) Phil Lussier (PL) | Others Present: Anne Madocks, Scribe |
|--|--|

1. LG called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.
2. Reviewed the minutes of 1/28/15. PL moved to accept; BC seconded; unanimous.
3. LG Quinns have withdrawn their request from the ZBA. Issue is whether the house is in fact a mobile home or not.
4. PL Reported that some municipal board members do submit to be reimbursed for occasional travel expenses. Funding would come out of the Con Comm budget, possibly the surplus category. Janet Clark would like to attend the MACC conference. She will submit mileage and tuition for reimbursement.
5. Lake House Certificate of Compliance completed and submitted.
6. Microhydro Power Systems – LG shared information about a company called PowerSpout that produces mini-hydro power systems for small streams. One unit will provide electricity to power a small home. Different models function under different stream flow conditions. System has similar requirements as a solar panel in terms of transmitting electricity. No dam required. PL recalls Mark Stinson commenting on low head hydro projects and some permitting considerations. PL will follow up with Mark Stinson to get guidance.
7. Hearing for Smith Road has been postponed. Tighe and Bond is still trying to work out a solution agreeable between DEP and the Town. PL moved to continue hearing for 2 weeks; DF seconded; unanimous.
8. Online building Permits – No permits for review.
9. LG received an RDA for a site worked on by Mary Quigley on Hawley Road. It involves a Forest Management proposal on the Leitz property. Tom Brulee is the forester. PL asked if the land is in Chapter 61? BC looked up the site online to see what resources might be jurisdictional.
10. DF attended a gathering at Elmer’s about the pipeline and shared a document prepared by a Massachusetts resident who wished to be anonymous. JC reported about a comment she heard from a person who attended and asked when and why a pipeline ever been denied. Occasionally a pipeline is denied because the project did not demonstrate need. DF reported that some communities are questioning the level of cooperation that towns should provide. DF showed a short video from the GCC open house of people asking questions.
11. JC stated the MACC comment letter to FERC was excellent and informative. Appreciated their discussion about the Commission’s authority to protect ecosystem services under the law.
12. PL moved to adjourn; BC seconded; unanimous.