

Ashfield Conservation Commission
March 8, 2017

Members Present:

Lester Garvin, Chair (LG)
Anne Capra (AC)
Brian Clark (BC)
Phil Lussier (PL)

Members Absent:

Janet Clark

1. LG called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.
2. Reviewed the minutes of 2/22/17. BC moved to accept the minutes, with the addition of Adam's last name, AC seconded; PL abstained; unanimous approval.
3. LG noted that he is planning to retire as chair. PL was suggested as a good candidate to replace Lester as chair. PL said he is grateful for being considered, but thinks we should have a term limit and rotate the position. LG explained his process for tracking the calendar to ensure meetings, hearings, and permits are posted and issued in a timely fashion.
4. LG received a call from John Pylan, Pfersick Road, about damage from the tornado. PL advised him to address the damage that is imminent. PL asked what type of work he was doing and if machinery was needed. LG suggested a site visit might be good. LG noted that Creamery Road had some damage as well.
5. PL Reported about the presentation he attended in Groton, MA about invasive species control by Michelle Ruby. The organization received some grant money to remove invasives from conservation lands. The project compared mechanical removal with cut stem treatment using triclopyr at 80% concentration and foliar spray with glyphosphate at 2.2% concentration. The study found treating cut stems with herbicides most effective for moderate stem diameter species, larger or smaller diameter re-sprouted (barberry, honeysuckle, bittersweet). PL received an EQUIP grant to remove invasives on his property prior to a planned hemlock salvage cut. PL distributed handouts that the organization had created. AC suggested we add electronic versions of the brochures to our website. She suggested we add links to the DEP permits on the website too.
6. 1301 Conway Road, RDA Meeting, Mary Quigley builder – Construction of an accessory apartment via renovation of existing garage and connecting it to the main house with a covered walkway. Minimal excavation for footing pads for posts is needed, and silt fence will be installed. PL moved to open the meeting and read the legal ad and description of the project. Although Mary was not present, she did attend a previous meeting and described the project in detail, just as outlined in the RDA. PL moved to close meeting; BC seconded; unanimous. PL moved to accept the RDA as submitted and issue a Negative Determination as the project is exempt because it's an accessory use to an existing single-family home. Handbook reference 12.4.2.6 under minor projects – conversion of lawn to accessory uses (including decks, etc.) more than 50' from the MHW.
7. BC No building permits.
8. AC informed the Commission that the Town Clerk had contacted her requesting a copy of the snowmobile bridge policy. She referred her to the meeting minutes where the policy was drafted and adopted.
9. PL An upcoming Emerald Ash Borer info session is being hosted by Franklin Land Trust. Ash shade trees can be treated.

Approved 3/22/17

10. LG The Open Space Committee has received funding to complete the OSRP. AC will remain the Conservation Commission representative to the committee.
11. LG circulated the notice from the Planning Board about a request for Special Permit to convert 102 Main Street from a single family to office space.
12. PL moved to adjourn meeting 8:14 pm; BC seconded; unanimous.