

Ashfield Conservation Commission
April 27, 2016

Members Present: Lester Garvin, Chair (LG) Anne Madocks (AM) Phil Lussier (PL) Janet Clark (JC) Brian Clark (BC)	Others Present: Sheralyn Scott John Angleman Emily Stockman Casey Warren, Acting Town Administrator Martin and Maureen Temple
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1. LG called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.
2. Reviewed minutes 4/13/16. JC moved to accept as corrected; PL seconded; unanimous.
3. Joe and Alex Osterman, Conway Road, RDA for Solar Array – Hearing has been advertised and meeting posted. Ground mounted solar array between the house and garden. Approximately 174' from the river. PL moved to close the meeting; unanimous. Commission will issue a Negative Determination of Applicability. DOA will be issued next week, 10-day waiting period.
4. PL made a report of the site visit with Eversource Kevin McCune and Matt Lagoy on Hawley Road and Mark Stinson from DEP. Mark felt that they should have come to the CC first. He recommended that they file a RDA. PL asked about the reach of the power line heading west from the Bear Swamp Road gate (new gate). What are their plans for the future? Since these roads were not built to carry the new load for maintenance. Right angle bedrock ledges that traverse the road in addition to wetlands. How do you plan to access your towers in those areas? Easements from the north at right angles do exist, but Lagoy said they were certain type of easements but not clear what they meant. Eversource did replace insulators without building new gravel roads. They have a new person in charge has a lot of history doing this work and believes you should approach the Town and work with them and inform all parties. Stinson did convey information including that with many of their ROWS being easements, when they are asked to submit a NOI, the OOC go on someone else's deed. DEP was not concerned about whether the OOC gets filed in those cases. Eversource will be submitting an RDA. Do we handle this as an NOI, what conditions make sense?

ES There is a section in the regulations, need to utilize BMPs, even for minor exempt activities. Fill in a wetland results in a loss. AM asked ES to explain the how the Commission enacts a third party review. Notify applicant; issue an RFP, share proposals with applicant; make a decision on who to hire.

Sheralyn Scott, 8 Bronson Avenue, Riverfront Redevelopment Project – NOI hearing for Shearalyn Scott opened by LG. Reservoir Brook, 6000+ sq. ft. with single family house and accessories structures and landscaping. Steep slope up gradient of mean annual high water line. Demolish existing wing, and in its place replace with new central portion of house and new garage. New impervious 632 sq.ft. Improving Riverfront Area slope stabilization with 4 native saplings and 4 native shrubs. Mitigate for new impervious remove existing brick patio (1:1 credit); 2:1 create 710 sq. ft. of native shrub planting. Straw wattles at top of slope. Supplementing the tree plantings that exist. Nothing is closer to the stream than existing degraded. Limit of work for construction will be 12' off the house. PL moved to close the hearing; BC seconded. Unanimous.

PL – South River

Kimberly McPhee and Nicolas Miller presented the river corridor planning system first pioneered in VT. Does not mirror FEMA floodplain map or 200' river front area. Represents most likely meandering area of the river to achieve equilibrium. Using Lidar for mapping technology. Watershed assessment in 2013, 26.3 square miles – 25% of banks mapped eroding, 9% armored; greater than 1/3 unstable; some straightened. Hypothetical restoration sites, shared designs: Creamery Brook upstream of closed bridge of Gay Family.

JC's neighbor has pasture and they would like to remove debris from a drainage/stream. RDA should be filed.

Ashfield Lake, Fanwort Control – PL open hearing at 8:30pm for NOI. Casey Warren, Acting Town Administrator

Ecological restoration project. Management of fanwort and milfoil, and deal with algae blooms. Hand pulling or diver assisted suctioning (DASH). Winter drawdown of lake was a less desirable alternative to what is being proposed. There have been plant surveys in 2014 and 2015. Selective control of plant growth is goal of removal actions. Maintains ecosystem and recreational use of pond. Preserve open water conditions and native species. Requesting approval of DASH technique, multi-year project timeline.

Temple – Our property is one of the one's with the invasive species. How did this project get started? BC Three years ago the Park Commission began the project. Volunteers had been removing water chestnut. Fanwort noticed during that time, survey conducted, removal last year for the first time. Project being funded by the town and overseen by Selectmen Coler. Why is the invasive continuing to come back? PL Fanwort never found before. Water chestnut been managed by volunteers for decades. Is there anything that can be done to prevent it from reinfesting?
BC moved to close; PL seconded; unanimous.

Online Building Permits

Pacosa RDA – PL signed off

Vincenzo, Watson Spruce Corner Road – New Garage – signed off

VanGuilder, 385 Buckland Road – garage and loft 31x40 – signed off

AM motion to adjourn; PL seconded 9:05 pm