

Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2011

Present: Lester Garvin, Chair (LG)
Will Thayer (WT)
Phil Lussier (PL)
David Fessenden (DF)
Brian Clark (BC)

Others Present: Representative from Jacob Engineering, Inc.; Representative from Mass DOT

The meeting is called to order at 7:30 pm.

1. PL will email BS last meeting minutes for distribution at the next meeting.
2. Review of mail.
3. Commission reviews, edits and signs the Order of Conditions for Healey and Kane. LG will mail documents tomorrow.
4. The Commission welcomes Brian Clark as a new member. Meeting times /dates, trainings, and workshop opportunities are explained. PL suggests that it might be a good time for the group to receive updated copies of the MACC handbook (CD and hard-copy versions are both \$50.00 each). The Commission discusses using money from the Wetland Protection Fund for this purchase.
5. PL reports that he did get a response from M. Stinson regarding the West Rd. situation. The Commission must obtain permission from the landowner or direct abutter. M. Stinson advises to document everything – get photographs, measurements.... An abutter has recently approached DF regarding a possible wetland crossing violation in this area and invited the Commission to view the site from his/her land.
6. NOI hearing Jacob Engineering Group, Inc. and Mass DOT for repair of South River Retaining Walls along Rt. 116. The following items are discussed / reviewed:
 - a. There is significant deterioration of retaining wall footings due to river scour;
 - b. Maps and pictures detailing the project are presented;
 - c. Applicant submits abutter notification cards;
 - d. Past ideas for how to repair the wall (build new wall behind existing one). It was determined this would not be the best solution because it was cost prohibitive, would require property taking, relocation of Rt 116, and have significant tree and wetland impacts;
 - e. 700 linear feet of retaining wall needs to be addressed;
 - f. River channel dimensions will not change;
 - g. The project proposes installation of boulder deflectors (4' to 6' in diameter) to deflect channels away from base of wall. This method will also create pools of water – potential habitat. The plan calls for use of existing river boulders;
 - h. Storm water runoff currently shoots off top of wall and culverts are also in the wall. They would like to build a new cap on top of the existing wall and install

catch basins and divert storm water run-off - piped down, discharged back into the river (possibly stone-wall swale);

- i. Period of construction: not before July and must be completed by Oct, according to Fish and Wildlife spawning season restrictions;
- j. Although included in the Environmental Submittal Plan, root wads probably will not be used because scouring on the other side of the river is not a concern;
- k. There are expected minor and temporary impacts to land under water when boulders are keyed into the ground.

The Commission agrees to continue the hearing to allow for a site visit in the next month and to receive additional information from the DEP. Hearing is continued to March 9, 2011.

Meeting adjourns at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Sussbauer