

**Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2012**

Present: Lester Garvin, Chair (LG)
Will Thayer (WT)
Dave Fessenden (DF)
Brian Clark (BC)
Phil Lussier (PL)
Brittany Martin (BM)
Dan Barrett (DB)
Maureen Mullaney (MM)

The meeting is called to order at 7:37pm.

1. Board reviews the April 11, 2012 minutes. PL moves to accept the amended minutes, BC seconds and all vote in favor.
2. Board discusses the resource area on town land south of town hall. PL was not able to get to the site; will walk it as soon as possible. WT visited a time ago, will wait until there are two or more opinions until anything is decided.
3. Board discusses the tree trimming on the Ashfield House property. WT has been contacted by Mark Fortier, an employee of the Housing Authority. WT met with him, spoke about cutting, Mark would like WT to be on the premises while the cutting occurs.
4. Dan Barrett and Maureen Mullaney of 323 Apple Valley Road, Ashfield, MA discuss field restoration in the Townsley Farm area. The Townsley's are approved for a \$12,000 grant to help restore the land.
 - a. The idea is to put stream back to its original course, wildlife wise, it's good, the water will be shaded and better for the cold water species. They did not specify when they would like to move forward. WT thinks the best time to proceed is during low water this summer.
 - b. Some of the material that washed into the flood plain has washed on others properties. They want to use that debris as fill on the new stream channel.
 - c. Board agrees that this project is for the good of the earth and the residents. Vote is unanimous.
5. Board discusses Culvert Replacement on ROW to South Ashfield Cemetery. Tom Graves, president of the Ashfield Burial Ground Association, cleaned it out about 2 weeks ago. There was no great amount of damage so there is no need to replace it.
6. Board discusses the On-line building permits and will take each case as they come.
7. Board discusses tree cutting next to Ashfield Lake, 176 B Ashfield Mountain Road, Ashfield, MA. WT met with Heath Hutchinson on 3-30-12, it was determined that two small hardwood trees and 6 hemlocks were marked to be removed. The site around the cabin is very enclosed; they are having problems with moisture. The other homes around the lake are much more open compared to this one. WT gave approval for the cutting and thinks it may be all done by now. He will visit the property or call to check on the status of the project.
8. WT made another site visit to 126 B Ashfield Mountain Road, Ashfield, MA, home of Joseph Paige. The water level was high in the lake because of the beavers. Joseph wanted the water level lowered but it

went down all by itself, Joseph was happy, does not want the water level taken down anymore. If the beavers should return, WT asked him to contact the board.

9. WT discusses that Tom Brule is under contract to remove the multi flora rose at Double Edge Theatre. WT will call him to give him the go ahead to move the project forward as soon as possible.

10. PL motions to adjourn the meeting, BC seconds, all vote in favor.

Meeting adjourns at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Martin