

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Thursday, January 7, 2016**

*approved on January 14, 2016*

**Sturbridge Center Office Building, 2nd Floor**

**Meeting Called to Order:** 6:10 pm. Chairman Ed Goodwin

**Quorum Check:** Confirmed

**Members Present:** Ed Goodwin (EG), Chairman  
David Barnicle (DB), Vice Chair  
Joseph Kowalski (JK)  
Steven Chidester (SC)

**Others Present:** Glenn Colburn (CG), Conservation Agent  
Anne Renaud-Jones, Conservation Clerk  
Applicants and/or Audience Members: Francis Lussier, Chane Lussier, Mark Piermarini, Linda Cocalis, Scott Morrison, Rick Ellis, Darlene Proper, Bruce Proper, Clarence Snyder, Dan Krasnecky, Melissa Baker, Phil Truesdell, Brandon Goodwin, Tom Chamberland

**Committee Updates:**

- **CPA – (EG)** No meeting was held,
- **Trails Committee – (DB)** No meeting has been held; Friends of Sturbridge Trails has their Annual Meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2016: their slate of officers will be elected, and 2016 event planning will take place.
- **Lakes Advisory Committee** – Need for a new liaison from the Commission.

**Approval of minutes for December 17: Motion (DB): To accept the minutes of December 17; 2nd: SC Vote: AIF**

**Walk-Ins** Linda Cocalis, Chair of the Sturbridge Board of Health made a request to the Commission to consider presenting comments on the Environmental Impact Report recently published regarding the expansion plans of Southbridge Landfill. The town of Sturbridge is considered a “stakeholder” in this issue due to the proximity of the Sturbridge border, within 1/2 mile of the landfill. Comments are due on or before January 22nd. Copies of the Report are available for review online or in hardcopy form. **Consensus to take a written action and submit before January 22nd.**

**Public Hearings**

6:15 **Notice of Intent DEP #300-944, 198 Charlton Road (Route 20); Arland Tool & Manufacturing;** represented by Whitman& Bingham Associates; proposed 43,000sf building, parking area, driveway and associated grading and utilities; a portion of the proposed parking area is located within the 200ft buffer zone. Mark Piermarini (MP) (Whitman&Bingham) and Melissa Baker (representing Arland Tool); Legal Ad tear sheet and abutter notification documents were submitted; Agent reported receipt of DEP comments regarding best management practices for the stormwater system, and planting concerns.

Mark Piermarini: Drawings show site plan of 198 Charlton Road; Parcel is 3.17 acres, proposed building footprint is about 16,900sf; there are commercial properties on either side, and the property is bordered by vegetated wetlands in the back; plan shows that a portion of the site lies within the 200ft buffer zone. Driveway curbcut has been approved by Mass Highway; it comes into the parking lot behind the building; Utilities and sewer will come off of Route 20: Storm drainage: the site pitches from route 20 back to the pond; We have catch basins with deep sumps; roof drainage goes to two subsurface infiltration systems; 1 catches from upper lot and roof; second catches from parking lot; both systems are sized to meet Standard 3 ground water recharge for volume.

Wetlands are down at back edge of the property; Orig plan showed slope in the back at 2:1, Glenn asked to push slope back away from the wetlands and save the trees in the buffer zone; so we made it 1:1 riprap slope to pull toe back from the 50’ buffer, and away from the trees; We have made adjustments to rain garden plantings from orig 1per 250 sqft to 1 per 50 sqft per our discussion with DEP:

Agent comments: Would like to see this project broken into phases, with additional erosion controls in place as you progress through the construction. MP: yes, we can do that..... GC: NOI mentions sedimentation basins? MP: no, those are only temporary as necessary determined by the project manager: GC: we’ll add that to the OOC so that we can be notified GC: on the Erosion Controls plan, there’s a Rain Garden in the front; but also a large oak tree there MP: yes, we are revising this plan to save the oak tree, and moving the rain garden to the

(east) side of the building; the swales are there to stop the sheeting into the neighboring property. GC: we need to be careful not to channelize the flow...

Discussion was had about the stormwater calculations in the NOI; Discussion was had regarding a planting plan which is still under construction; Agent requested use of a "conservation mix" instead of a rye grass, and the inclusion of trees on both sides of the building where the swales are located, and encouraged the planned use of milkweed; we would like to see the planting plan when it is finished. Discussion was had regarding possibility of reducing the number of parking spaces and size of the parking lot to avoid the 100ft line; this cannot happen due to restrictions from Planning Dept; MP stated that all lighting will be Dark Sky Compliant, but detailed plan is also still under development: **Request granted for continuation to January 21st Meeting:** At that time, the Commission would like to see the completed planting plan including the lighting system, the revised raingarden location, specifications showing the preservation of the large oak tree; and a plan for phasing the project that includes control of water during each phase.

6:30 **Notice of Intent DEP #300-945, 30 Camp Road**, Richard Ellis, represented by Eco-Tec, Inc.; restoration and stabilization project. Scott Morrison, EcoTec, Inc, and Richard Ellis, property owner are present

SM: The plan here tonight has been created by Jalbert Engineering, and has been presented to and approved by Keith Beecher of the Army Corps of Engineers; Original problem occurred when tree cutting occurred on adjacent Army Corps property site on the Long Pond; the site has a severe slope, causing major erosion issues. This plan shows the removal of a section of the paved driveway, which has been a historical problem as runoff from Camp Road (a dirt road) would sheet Mr. Ellis' property right down to the pond. The driveway is being reconfigured to avoid that direct flow. There will be more plantings, and a retainer wall installed in the front of the property. Agent comments: Concerns about the stabilization; is the mulch indicated adequate for the slope? Is it jute netting? SM: Notes on plan indicate it is coconut mat. We intend to monitor this site until it is securely stable. Commission comments: JK OK; SC OK; DB OK; EG: Would like details of plants being used? SM plan lists options for the owner to choose from EG: we would like plantings to include some trees that grow to substantial size, such as oak or white pine, rather than birches. Abutter comments: Fran Lussier asked questions regarding the right-of-way which he believes he has on the Army Corp Property to access the lake. Mr. Lussier was referred to an attorney to pursue the answer to his question, or to go directly to Keith Beecher at Army Corps. **Motion(DB) 2nd (SC) to close the public hearing and issue an Order of Conditions, accepting the presented plan with modifications to replanting plan as discussed. Vote: AIF**

**Trails Committee: Continuing discussion of work on the Pine Lands and Leadmine Mountain Trails**  
(continued from meetings of Oct 1 and Oct 15) -- Brandon Goodwin and Tom Chamberland present

Agent: Background: At our Dec 3 Mtg, the Commission reviewed the request of the Trails Committee regarding some crossings on the Pine Lands and Leadmine Mountain Trails; The decisions from the meeting were documented and sent to Brandon Goodwin, Trails Comm Chair. In response this evening, Brandon presented a counter proposal for one of the problem sites, the upper Pine Lands Trail. The Commission had suggested a solution of large flat stones to address seasonal flow at the site; Trails Comm is now suggesting a small bridge of 6 inch timbers, raised 10 inches from the brook channel; approx. 8ft long; it would last +/- 30 years using pressure-treated materials; there would be a need to build up the bank on one side of the channel with concrete pads under the timbers; The Commission agreed to this plan; Tom Chamberland will submit a formal plan for this bridge.

Trails has agreed to the solutions offered for the other 3 sites (see Dec 3 Mtg minutes); **With this consensus, Agent will proceed with the Notice of Intent necessary to proceed with this work in the Spring.**

**Trail Committee: Continuing discussion of long range trails plans on Leadmine Mountain and Heins Farm;** (continued from meetings of Oct 1 and Oct 15) -- Brandon Goodwin and Tom Chamberland present

Regarding Trails Committee Plan on Leadmine Mountain and Heins Farm properties: Agent introduced data assessing trails on Leadmine Mountain and Heins Farm properties; the data detailed total trail lengths and their proposed trail classifications according to recent Trails Comm plans submitted to Conservation (Sept 2015). Data showed that these current plans would result in 70% Trek Trails, 21% combined ST-1-2 trails, and 9% ST-3 trails.

Agent GC then presented an optional plan of trail distribution, roughly based on the Trails Master Plan, Core Trail data. This proposal shows approximately 38% Trek Trails and 26% combined St-1-2 trails, and 36% ST-3 trails.

TChamberland disputed some of the data presented, saying the data did not take into consideration recent adjustments to the Trails Plan.

TC: The Trails Master Plan was originally in the form of the 2 major North-South legs, with a crossbar connecting those trails (the big H); that plan is the basis for our proposals. Part of this goal was to maximize the number of people using the trails - to make Sturbridge a "trails destination" PTruesdell: The Trails Master Plan doesn't always take into consideration the CR restrictions on this property EdG: 2 years ago, we were clearly given a directive from Mass Wildlife that the southern section of this area should be considered primarily for more primitive trails. Let's leave south of the pipeline alone....

EdG: Suggests the Trails Committee come back with a response to this information regarding the trails classifications, and asked Tom Chamberland to provide a document of classification terminology for the next discussion.

**Phil Trusdell:** Two things: I'd like to reiterate here: the request of Mass Wildlife that trails south of the pipeline remain in a smaller more primitive state, and, regarding the discussion of a trail head at the lower end of the 7 Ridges Trail (near pipeline); it is a good place for a trail head, but it is very tight to nearby houses- We would not want a significant trailhead and parking like at Heins Farm- We would prefer much smaller- maybe only 2-3 cars -- (DB says plan is for 8-10 cars)

#### **Hamilton Rod & Gun Club:**

-- **The Club has submitted a request** for the use of the Plimpton property for their annual R100 3D Archery Shoot sponsored by Rinehart Target. Dan Krasnecky, Archery Chairman, and Clarence Snyder, (past) president were present to answer questions.

This event is a fund-raising event for The Club. The event is scheduled for the weekend of June 4 & 5th, 2016, with setup activities on Thursday and Friday before; Activities will end by 5pm on Sunday, at which time the targets will be removed. Expected participation is 300-500 persons over the 2 days. We have in previous years had permission to set up 10-20 targets on the Plimpton property, and request permission to continue to do so this year. We rake the trails to address any tripping hazards - Area used on Plimpton is about 50% of full event activities, similar to the Mountain Biking event; We will add Town of Sturbridge to our insurance rider.

Agent comments: we see no problems, but there is a CR on the property, so we need to notify Opacum Land Trust; and we should be able to accommodate your need to bring ORVs onto the property just for the placement and removal of the large targets.

-- **Regarding trails on Plimpton:** The club is working to have our trails GPSd; and we hope that eventually the trails on our property and trails on Plimpton will be joined. Our conversation acknowledges the need for a loop trail on Club property, so trails hikers entering Club property from Plimpton will be re-directed around the outskirts of Club land; with proper signage indicating that we are an active rod & gun club...

**Forest Cutting Plan;** 99 acres at Fiske Hill and Main Street; has changed from a "short-term harvest plan" to a "long-term harvest plan"; **Commission recommended approval to the Board of Selectmen**

#### **Enforcement**

**8 Birch Street, Gerry Paquin. Work in the buffer zone without permits.** Mr. Paquin was unable to attend tonight.

**9 Holland Road. Work in the Riverfront Resource Area without permits.** Responsible party has changed to property owner Richard DiBonaventura.

**45 Seneca Ln, Craig Moran.** Restoration/replanting plan. (continued for a revised plan; planting will be in the spring)

#### **Signatures**

- **Order of Conditions:** 10 Willard Road; DEP #300-942; construction of a single family house
- **Certificate of Compliance:** 53 Breakneck Road; DEP#300-930; Septic System replacement

**Agent Report:**

- The Annual Tree Hunt ends on January 19th; we've received several entries and our drawing will take place at our next meeting, January 21st.
- The DPW has installed several water wars on the 7 Ridges Trail, and did a great job. We appreciate their help.
- Entrance Signs are being constructed by the Carpentry Dept at Tantasqua for Heins Farm and Leadmine Mountain trail heads.
- A split-rail fence has been installed at the Arbutus Park trail at the border with the OSV property.
- MACC Annual Environmental Conference are coming March 5th; Registration forms are available for all Commissioners; Please return paperwork to Anne at the next meeting so we can get it sent off with payments.
- DaveB informed the Commission that a bench at Robinson Crusoe is missing- unclear whether it was tossed into the pond or was removed from the property (a heavy bench)... also unclear whether new incident or related to earlier incidents of chain cutting over the summer

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:48 pm Motion: JK; 2nd: DB Vote: AIF**

**Next Meetings:** Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 6:00pm

***A copy of tonight's meeting can be found on our Town's website or is available upon request via the Audio Department:  
508.347.7267***