

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Thursday, January 21, 2016**

*Approved on February 4, 2016*

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

**Meeting Called to Order:** 6:00 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: Mark Piermarini, Whitman & Bingham, Robert and  
Brenda Briggs, Eric Dashnaw, Advantage Tree

**Committee Updates:**

- **CPA – (EG)** Meeting was held on January 11th; there were 3 applicants who submitted requests for CPA funds
  - Lorraine Murawski requested \$50,000 for the continuation of the refurbishing of the old Books of the Town Clerk's office
  - Barbara Search Miller requested \$10,000 for the framing of an old American flag...
  - a Representative of the Congregational Library of Boston requested \$10,000 for the historical translation of a Sturbridge Congregational Church history that they own.
  - These requests will go to Town Meeting
- **Trails Committee – (DB)** Agent GC attended the Trails Committee Mtg, and shared the Trails classification report that was discussed in this Commission at the January 7 Meeting; Also, GC shared with Trails Comm that the Conservation Dept is having 2 carved wooden signs made by the Tantasqua High School Carpentry division: The signs are for the entrances to the Heins Farm trail and Leadmine Mountain trails at the Heins Farm parking lot. Trails Comm discussed possibly approaching TRHS to request 3 additional signs: for Trailheads at three locations: Southern Leadmine, Shattuck Road, and the OSV Parking lot. DB also reported that Trails Comm had a 2016 Planning Session on Saturday, Jan 16th; DB also reported the Trails voted to take careful review of suggested alternative trail configuration and getting back to Cons Dept with a response.
- **Lake Advisory Committee –** Need for a new liaison from the Commission.

**Approval of minutes for January 7: Motion (DB): To accept the minutes of January 7 with minor corrections discussed;  
2nd: SC Vote: AIF**

**Walk-Ins**

**Brenda & Robert Briggs; 3 Ladd Road, and Eric Dashnaw, Advantage Tree:** Tree removal work without permit; work in a wetland and buffer zone: Agent had received a phonecall reporting tree cutting activity at this address and had gone to the site and witnessed a substantial number of trees had been removed; Agent met the owner on site and requested their appearance at this meeting. Agent reported a count of 39 trees had been removed – various sizes; Agent informed Briggs of the existence of an intermittent stream on his property; as well as the fact that the entire property was within the 200ft buffer zone. Robert Briggs was unaware of the requirement to have a permit for this work; he stated that he had had problems with mold on his house and several trees were large enough that he felt they were a threat to the house; Briggs had wanted to open up his property for more sunlight and airflow. Several trees removed had been diseased and failing ash trees: Commissioners asked EricD of Advantage Tree if he was aware of the bylaws regarding Tree Removal and work within a wetland.... EricD: Yes, I spoke to agent earlier about reviewing our policy of how to insure permits are in place...

**CONCLUSION: All work will cease; Agent will be contacted in the spring to continue conversation: the agent will review wetland boundaries with the owner, and a replanting plan will be submitted to the commission.**

**Commission also requested Agent submit a letter to Advantage Tree regarding several recent violations, and what can be changed in their procedures to close the communication gap regarding permitting.**

## Public Hearings

- 6:15 Cedar Pond Road, Request for Determination of Applicability. Mass Electric. Pole and anchor replacement of existing poles. Work in the buffer zone along Cedar Pond Road, Caron Road, and Valley Road. **WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANT due to change in work schedule. Applicant will reapply at a later date.**
- 6:30 **Notice of Intent DEP #300-944, 198 Charlton Road** (Route 20), cont from 1/7/16; **Arland Tool & Manufacturing**; represented by Whitman& Bingham Associates, Mark Piermarini; 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) submitted revised plans to the commission in response to concerns expressed at original proposal:
  - A revised landscaping plan was presented, showing a significant increase in the number and types of trees being planted, as well as the revised raingarden location; also the preservation of the large oak tree was specified on the plan as requested
  - A lighting plan was submitted showing that all lighting plans meet dark sky guidelines.
  - Erosion controls: plan shown for phasing the project that includes control of water during each phase.
- All commissioners felt that revisions met all concerns previously expressed:  
**Motion (DB); 2nd (JK): to close the Public Meeting, to approve the plan dated Jan 19, 2016 as presented at this meeting and to issue an Order of Conditions for this project; Vote: AIF**

## New Business

**Thai Place Restaurant**, 371 Main Street, has requested a 3-year extension of their OOC dated 2/7/2013 ; There are no changes to the plan: **Motion: to grant extension of Order of Conditions for DEP# 300-878 for Thai Place Restaurant, 371 Main Street, for 3 years. Vote: AIF**

## Old Business

- **Wetlands Bylaw Regulations;** GC: Anne and I have been familiarizing ourselves with the status of the editing process of these regulation, and reviewing edits previously agreed upon, etc. We will be putting out a printed packet to the commissioners via mail early next week so that you can also review this information so that we can resurrect this effort. We will start our meeting next week at 6:00 pm, and have an hour-long “working session”, and then begin our regular session and Public Hearings at 7:00pm. We are hoping we can wrap this up soon.
- **MACC Conference Registrations:** Commissioners are submitting their Workshop Registration forms they can be submitted on Monday. Most are already in.
- **Comments to EEA regarding expansion of the Southbridge Recycling and Disposal Park Final Environmental Impact Report:** At Jan 7 meeting, the Commission agreed to review the FEIR and submit comments to be discussed and finalized at tonight’s meeting. Comments are due to EEA tomorrow, Friday, January 22nd. Comments had been submitted by several commissioners, and a draft letter had been submitted by Commission Chair Ed Goodwin; discussion was had regarding the Report, issues the Commission identified, and how much could be conveyed in our final document. Agreement was found on topics to be covered, and Agent will prepare final document and submit on Friday, Jan 22, with copies also being sent to Commissioners and Linda Cocalis, Sturbridge BOH Chair

## Enforcement

**479 Main Street:** the office received a phonecall today that some trees had been cut in the back of this property (Kaizen Restaurant Bldg) (in the buffer zone) ; Agent visited the site and left a request with the restaurant manager to have the property owner come to the office tomorrow morning to discuss. DB noted that historically the canal running behind that stretch of properties has been treated as a river: the agent noted that there was no running water, it does not appear to be “active and flowing” and therefore may not classify as riverfront.... Agent will re-visit the site

**8 Birch Street, Gerry Paquin.** Work in the buffer zone without permits. Mr. Paquin was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. Mr. Paquin has been informed that a plan must be received by Wednesday January 27th. Agent noted that the department has just recently become aware that this property is also owned by Richard DiBonaventura, and that he will be called as necessary.

**9 Holland Road.** Work in the Riverfront Resource Area without permits. This property is stable at this time; further work is still required. 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:** 30 Camp Road; DEP #300-945; Stabilization plan ;

## Correspondence

- **Received email from Tom Chamberland regarding Earth Day (Friday, April 22):** is planning to do some cleanup in the Riverlands: especially focusing on collecting old tires on the property; Tom will be looking for some funding for this work- perhaps from Mosquito Control .
- **Received letter from World Tech Engineering (MassDOT) regarding safety improvements to be done along Route 148 (Brookfield Road) :** They are seeking preliminary comments from the Commission; Work being considered (collectively) includes lane marking, or sight line issues..... Sites are: 1) entrance to Tantasqua Regional High and Junior High Schools; 2) Glendale Rd intersection 3) Warren (Apple) Road 4) The Trail: --- Commission agreed to review this document and come back to the next meeting ; comments will be sent to Christopher Charrette
- **Plimpton Community Forest Stewardship Plan -** Forester James DiMeo has submitted a proposal to create a Forest Stewardship Plan for the Plimpton Community Forest property. This plan would meet DCR Small Landowner Group Forest and Green Certification requirements. DiMeo has been the forester this property. He is proposing to seek a grant from DCR to cover the cost of plan; If he obtains the grant, our cost would be \$0.00; otherwise the cost would be \$1,000 + \$75 /hour for attending town meetings --- Commissioners were asked to take this proposal home to review and we will discuss at next meeting....
- **Email today from The Last Green Valley –** an invitation to participate in a new April-May series of walks and talks focusing specifically on Land Trusts and Municipal to showcase our properties. Agent suggest Plimpton Community Forest - an early evening walk in early May, to introduce people to the new property ; I have passed this along to Brandon G (Trails); Perhaps a 1-1/2 hour walk thru trails and cart roads , highlighting sustainable forestry, maybe discuss the old Plimpton homestead and its history; wildlife in relationship to the land, and perhaps wildflowers identification with a botanist from Opacum Land Trust. DB: TLGV has been a tremendous supporter of the out-of-doors in general, and has supported Sturbridge very well; have come to several of our First Day hikes and our Night Sky walks, and also included our trails information in their Last Green Valley booklet -

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:35 pm Motion: JK; 2nd: DB Vote: AIF**

**Next Meetings:** Thursday, February 4, 2016, with a Bylaw Regulation working session starting at 6:00 pm

***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***