

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA -- CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, May 19, 2016

Approved at June 2, 2016 meeting

Sturbridge Center Office Building, 2nd Floor

Meeting Called to Order: **6:00 – 6:55 pm: The Commissioners' working session for a continuation of review of the Bylaws**

--Present: Ed Goodwin, David Barnicle, Steve Chidester
Joe Kowalski arrived at 6:50
-- Absent: Steven Halterman

7:00 pm **Reconvene Regular Business Meeting**

-- Present: Ed Goodwin, David Barnicle, Steve Chidester, Joe Kowalski
-- Absent: Steven Halterman

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 pm. Chairman Ed Goodwin

Quorum Check: Confirmed

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

Others Present: Glenn Colburn (GC), Conservation Agent
Anne Renaud-Jones, Conservation Clerk
Applicants and/or Audience Members: Leonard Jalbert, Edward Campbell,
Jeff Castellani (Solitude Lake Mgmt), Christopher Thompson (C-Mass GeoCache)

Committee Updates:

CPA: Committee has not met

Trails Committee: met last week to plan the Work Day May 21st: 8:00 am; Meet at Shattuck Road

Lakes Advisory Committee- is having meeting tonight; Glenn will share info from Mtg Minutes at our next meeting.

Walk-in **None**

Public Hearings

7:15 **Request for Determination of Applicability, 298 Cedar Street;** Edward Campbell; Construct front porch, rebuild retaining wall and pave driveway within the buffer zone:
Ed Campbell was present; had photos of site; Commissioners had visited site: Some discussion was had regarding the use of a 2 foot pea stone buffer strip on either side of the new paving: Mr Campbell had received that advice from four contractors he had spoken with; Commissioners requested removal of old landscaping timbers from the property and proper disposal; and the use of straw wattles along the parking area; Commission also cautioned Mr Campbell to ensure there was no encroachment into the wetland. **Motion (DB) APPROVED with conditions discussed: positive determination #5 confirming that the project is subject to the Sturbridge Town Bylaws, and a negative determination #3, confirming that this project is within the buffer zone, but will not alter the area subject to protection. No Notice of Intent is required. Vote: AIG (4:0)**

7:30 **Request for Determination of Applicability, 479 Main Street,** Kaizen Restaurant, Son Vo. Pave existing gravel parking area. Install infiltration trench in the buffer zone. **Continued to June 2nd Meeting.** Applicant failed to publish legal notice prior to meeting.

- 7:45 **Notice of Intent, DEP #300-949, 43 Abrams Drive;** Cont. from 4/7/16. Brian R. Juliano, represented by Jalbert Engineering; project consists of 2 items: dismantling and replacement of a deteriorating retaining wall, and installation of a volleyball court – both within the buffer zone.
Continued to June 16th Meeting.
- 8:00 **Notice of Intent DEP #300-952, Tantasqua Regional School District;** 320 Brookfield Road: installation of artificial turf on two existing grass athletic fields at the High School. Represented by Gale Associates. - Revised plan was shown to the Commission which included notations and diagrams addressing the Commission's concerns from the May 5 meeting.
Motion (DB) 2nd (SC): To close the Public Hearing, approve the plan as modified, and issue an Order of Conditions. Vote: AIF (4:0).

Letter Permits

- 6 Tantasqua Shore Drive,** Constance Montross. Remove 11 trees. Commission has visited the site. Commission is not requesting replanting. **Motion (DB) to approve this plan and issue Letter Permit. Vote: AIF (4:0)**
- 62 Mt Dan Road,** Dan & Shannon StOnge. Remove dead hemlock. Commission has visited the site. Commission is not requesting replanting.
Motion (DB) to approve this plan and issue Letter Permit. Vote: AIF (3:0); Abstaining: JK

New business

Request to use conservation land for a geo-caching event August 19, 2016:

Christopher Thompson from C-Mass Geofest presented a request for an Night-time Geocaching Event to be held at Leadmine Mountain. They will place hidden objects, and use reflective tacks along the trails for the participants. Expectation for 60-70 people. People will carpool, and meetup at Leadmine parking lot. We will alert Sturbridge Police. Commission requested that the reflective tacks be removed. **Commission consensus to allow this event as described.** Mr Thompson will submit "Conservation Land Special Use Permit Application".

Dave Barnicle asked about Article on the Town Warrant

DB asked Agent GC about an Article on the Town Mtg Warrant regarding the makeup of the Conservation Commission: previous discussions within this Commission, and with the Town Administrator have been had regarding adding Associate Members to this Commission. Historically, SCC has sometimes had Assoc Commissioners, and this is often done on Commissions (in general) as training for new people. In Sturbridge, Associate Members have always been non-voting members, but other Commissions do allow Assoc Commissioners to vote in the absence of a (regular) Commissioner. DB said the Article spoke about adding 2 voting Associate Commissioners. DB was concerned about how this would /could affect the decision-making process, and that neither the Commissioners nor the Agent had any knowledge of this Article being brought forth.

Old business

Leadmine Mountain Goals discussion - continued from April 21

Commissioners reviewed the Landowner Goals worksheet from Mike Barry of Baystate Forestry, and established a consensus of priority importance for the Goals listed. This consensus will be sent to Mike Barry (and Liz Newlands, (DFW) in preparation for MikeB's follow-up meeting with this Commission on June 16th.

Minor Amendments to Orders of Conditions

DEP #300-916, Burgess Nature Trail, PTO. Grading to address drainage and erosion problem.

Stur Trails Committee has been notified of a problem with a detention basin overflowing across a section of trail and creating washout damage. Discussion was had about several repair options; work was approved; Commission suggested that Trails contact Burgess grounds crew to make sure the plan does not create any unintended problems in their routine maintenance. **Commission Approved this as a Minor Change to an existing Order of Conditions.**

DEP #300-726, Cedar Lake Assoc. Requesting the use of hydro-raking to control nuisance and non-native aquatic vegetation in the town beach area. Jeff Costellani, Solitude Lake Management explained the hydro-raking process; and explained that the organic material is taken away for composting. Commissioners suggested contacting Sturbridge DPW to see if Stur still does composting at Recycling Center.
Commission Approved this as a Minor Change to an existing Order of Conditions.

Enforcement

3 Ladd Road. Re-planting plan is being developed.

460 Leadmine Road, John Stevens. Restoration plan has been accepted.

8 Birch Street, Richard DiBonaventura. Work in the buffer zone without permits.

9 Holland Road. Work in the Riverfront Resource Area without permits. Notice of Intent expected for restoration work.

Signatures

Request for Certificate of Compliance

DEP #300-885, 324 The Trail, Matthew Kibbe. **Signed.**

DEP #300-466, 1 Highland Lane, The Highlands; Partial Certificate for Lot 6 **Signed.**

Order of Conditions

DEP#300-951: Mass DOT: I-90 Toll Plaza #9: **Signed.**

Correspondence

We have received a Notice from the law firm Kopelman & Paige of Boston, stating that the Conservation Commission will be represented by Attorneys Joel Bard and David Waterfall in the case of Gary Allard and Margaret Allard v. David Barnicle, et al.; Worcester Superior Court, C.A. No. 1485CV00517.

National Grid - has sent us their 2016 Annual Vegetative Management Plan

Motion to Adjourn

8:50 pm -- Motion (DB) to adjourn (2nd); Vote: AIF (4:0)

Next Meetings: Thursday, June 2, 2016, with a Bylaw Regulation working session starting at 6:00 pm, Regular Meeting to begin at 7:00.

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