

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA -- CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Approved May 5, 2016

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, Steven Halterman

7:00 pm Reconvene Regular Business Meeting
-- Present: Ed Goodwin, David Barnicle, Steve Chidester, Steven Halterman, Joe Kowalski

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)
Steven Halterman (SH)

Others Present: Glenn Colburn (GC), Conservation Agent
Anne Renaud-Jones (ARJ), Conservation Clerk
Applicants and/or Audience Members: Frank Biccheri, Mike Beaudry, Tom Peck, William Clougherty, Dennis Lowry, Shawn Klingener, Michael Thibault, Liz Newlands, Mike Barry

Committee Updates:

- **CPA:** Committee met and reviewed their numbers for projects on the town warrant, including ball fields and trails funds .
- **Trails Committee:** - have Earth Day work planned on Saturday - CleanUp of the Riverlands. Also had Trail Meeting w TA LeonG for 2016 Planning - a good meeting
DB asked ARJ if she had been receiving the Trails Comm meeting minutes; ARJ: only once, several months ago
- **Lakes Advisory:** Agent Glenn Colburn has offered to take on Lakes Advisory Liaison task because he is on the SLAC email list , and also receives their meeting minutes; He can share updates at our meetings

Walk In **Mike Beaudry, contractor at 43 Mountain Brook, Ryan Kane, DEP#300-937, OOC issued Nov 2015;**
Adding 2nd story to existing SFH: Mike has just received the structural plans for this project; original plans did not anticipate any digging for this project; but they have found that the existing outside wall of one corner of the foundation is actually a “facade”, the actual foundation has a jog in it (shown on the plan) so the visible outside corner is not structurally able to support the planned 2nd story. It will need a new footing and frost wall - an approx. 4 x 12ft area; It will now require some excavation work; foundation is approx. 14ft from the tree; about 39 feet from the lake; it is still not an expansion of the current footprint; The existing deck will be gone, so the digging can be done from that area; accessing through that area will avoid the root protection zone of that tree - MB will haul away soil immediately; no stock-piling; Commissioners expressed concern about depth of water-table; digging will be 4 foot deep; what if you hit water? MB: can still pour the frost wall, can pump as necessary; into basin with hay bales if the quantity requires those measures.... Agent Comments: This will be OK with proper measures of containment

Commissioners: Comfortable as long as there are adequate provisions for de-watering; Request for a de-watering plan and plan for new foundation wall; Agent: this will be a Minor Amendment to the Order of Conditions; We can review at May 5th meeting.

Public Hearings

7:14 **Notice of Intent DEP #300-947**, 195 Charlton Road, Lot A, Charter Foods North. (*continued from March 10*). We have received notification that Charter Foods has withdrawn their application for this project.

Motion (DB) 2nd (SH) to close the Public Hearing; Vote: AIF

7:15 **Notice of Intent, DEP #300- 950:** 60 South Shore Drive. (*continued from April 7*). Kelly & Thomas Peck, represented by Bertin Engineering, Frank Bicchieri; replacement of deteriorating retaining wall and installation of patio. Frank Bicchieri, Mike Thibault and Tom Peck were present; FB presented a revised plan which incorporated a rain garden to address some drainage issues, further discussion was had regarding making every effort to save the large tree at the end of the wall; revised plan indicates new planted area of shrubs and perennials; revised plan adds riprap at the base of the wall in some areas to create habitat; Commissioners warned that the base of the riprap cannot be beyond the original line of the wall within the water; the type of wall being used produces a canted wall face (3inch per vertical foot)..... Commissioner comments: Concerned about wildlife access to property, but realize lot is a tight spot; Would like planting of one good size tree; would like project phased, would like the wall work around the large tree done as quickly as possible to make sure roots are not left exposed for any length of time; **Motion (DB) 2nd (SC) to close the Public Hearing and issue Order of Conditions which must include project phasing; work to be done during drawdown and 1 full size tree replacement; Vote: AIF**

7:30 **Notice of Intent DEP#300-951:** Mass DOT: I-90 Toll Plaza #9: represented by Thomas Keough, of AECOM Technology, Chelmsford, MA: MassDOT proposes to improve the traffic flow along I-90, through demolition of the existing Toll Plaza #9. Construction activities include the removal of a significant portion of impervious surfaces, improving natural infiltration of stormwater runoff, and targeted upgrades to existing stormwater management structure. William Clougherty, Dennis Lowry, Shawn Klingener presenting: This project will entail work done in a length of area approx. 1 mile long, including the area of the existing toll booths, the tunnel underneath, and the existing west bound entrance ramp; it will ultimately result in a change from 12 lanes to 6 lanes; Approx 4 acres of impervious surface will be removed; Area affected includes sections of land abutting Walker Pond and Hobbs Brook and its tributaries; there is no work in the Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. It does affect some Priority Habitat to the west of the work area; Work includes stormwater management improvements, installation of a new 4ft sump catch basins; Small amount of work in the Resource Area (Hobbs Brook) is necessary for work on the ramp (west-bound entrance): adjusting the grade of the ramp requires some widening of the slope, and is necessary to address the safety issue of the increased speed of the traffic (due to absence of booths) ; There will be increase pavement in one area – about 1500 sq ft - Commissioners inquired about vegetative enhancements; DL: areas where asphalt is being removed will have 6 inches of loam applied, and planted; then areas will be allowed to return to a natural mature state (it will not be a mowed area) Commissioners: concerned about removal of asphalt millings, and would like clarity about the removal plan from the contractor: Commission was advised that millings are now recycled, and therefore not left behind as in older practices..... Commission can also request that “lay down area’ be located in an upland area.....; Are there any sound barriers being installed? No...

Agent comments: I see many benefits to this project... a decrease in auto emissions and substantial gain in pervious surface, Concerned about invasives with removal of asphalt and newly disturbed areas... DL stated that DOT has full landscaping dept and are very aggressive about invasives control **Request for Continuation to May 5 meeting; Granted. AIF**

7:45 **Notice of Intent, DEP #300-949**, 43 Abrams Drive; (*continued from April 7*). 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 May 5 meeting.**

New business

Leadmine Stewardship Plan Liz Newlands, Mass Wildlife Stewardship Associate and Mike Barry, Forester with Bay State Forestry to discuss progress on Leadmine Stewardship Plan. Sturbridge has been selected to receive a Forest Stewardship Plan developed under a grant awarded to Mass Fish & Wildlife. Bay State Forestry has been contracted by Mass Wildlife to revise the Stewardship Plan for the Leadmine Mountain property. Mass Wildlife wants to open the discussion with this Commission to gather information about the goals and objectives for this property. Mike Barry will receive this information and assist the SCC in prioritizing goals. Typical topics considered in a property management plan include timber harvesting, wildlife habitat and conservation, recreation, cultural resources and water quality. MB requested that Commissioners and Agent complete a Landowners Goals worksheet as a starting point. Conservation Clerk AnneRJ will receive all completed forms and provide collective info to MB. LN suggested Commissioners review the Conservation Restriction associated with the

property before completing this worksheet to consider purpose of the CR, including the prohibited acts and permitted uses. AnneRJ will email digital copy of the Worksheet and the CR to all Commissioners

Commissioners offered MB a copy of the Trails Master Plan and the existing GPS Maps; DB reminded all of the approaching dam removal project which may affect MBs data; Agent GC asked LN MassWildlife to clarify MFW goals; Would they consider discussion of planning for a diversity of habitats ? so the full property is not solely mature aged forest... LN: These options will come from Mike as he is on the ground and in the field.... To identify the specific opportunities this particular property may present....

GC: Leadmine Mtn actually consists of 3 parcels, two of which are not under the MFW CR: can these parcels wrap in under this same grant? LN: no, it cannot, but other towns have had similar situations, and have been able to contract directly with Bay State Forestry to do the adjacent properties at the same time....

EG: would like to bring this discussion into Commission Meeting before sending to Mike Barry; we'll put on May 5th Agenda.

Old Business

- The printed "Sturbridge Lakes Brochures" have arrived- and have been distributed to the Commission. Marita Tasse of SLAC has picked up several hundred; The Cons Dept will hold the remaining supply. The Commission has requested that a letter be sent to Donna Grehl, former Commissioner, thanking her for her work in spearheading this project.
- DB advised Commission that the forest cutting plan at 7 Ladd Road has been started and will be finished by May 15th.
- DB --: property at head of New Boston Road and Route 20- 350 Main St; the old American Motor Lodge: has several acres of disturbed soil which are wide open with no ground cover, and no work being done; Don't they need to get that planted and stabilized? GC; erosion controls there are in great shape; just walked recently; gravel is handling it well ; no gullies, no problems; recent heavy rain caused no problems

Minor Amendments to Orders of Conditions

DEP #300-878, 505 Main Street, Thai Orchid Restaurant. Part of building will be razed and rebuilt. No change in work limit lines. No property owner or representative was present to discuss this revised plan. Commissioners did not wish to rule on this without having questions answered. **Continued to May 5 meeting.**

Letter Permits

55 Caron Road, Russell Chamberland. 1 tree; **Motion to Approve (DB) Vote: AIF; no replanting is being required**

Enforcement

- **3 Ladd Road.** Agent scheduled to visit site 4/28 to determine wetland line to allow property owners to proceed with replanting plan
- **460 Leadmine Road.** Have received preliminary plan. Expected completed plan for discussion at May 5 meeting
- **8 Birch Street.** Richard DiBonaventura. Work in the buffer zone without permits. Site visit planned for week of April 25th
- **9 Holland Road.** Work in the Riverfront Resource Area without permits. – Received Notice of Intent, but upon review, it was incomplete and returned for corrections.

Signatures: Certificates of Compliance

DEP #300-853, 60 S. Shore Drive, Peck
DEP #300-894, 93 Shore Road, Bonin
DEP #300-467, 39 Champeaux Road, Celuzza

Agent Report:

Tantasqua Fields: a site visit is scheduled for April 26; 2:30 pm; a joint visit with the Town of Brookfield ConsCom, with an engineer and wetland scientist from Gale Associates, who is representing the School district . Public Hearing on this is scheduled for May 5.

81 Paradise, DEP#300-936; Site inspection: long driveway going up into the woods; Erosion controls are in place; there's a large hemlock in serious decline, but supplying lots of habitat; have asked him to save it. He agreed. This is the beginning of the phasing of this project; driveway is being installed first

66 Mt Dan Road; went to visit site again, erosion controls are in good condition; asked them to add a few haybales at bottom

Plimpton Community Forest Walk being held on Wednesday evening, May 11; we have botanist Leslie Duthie from Norcross, coming with us. This is part of TLGV Spring Walks.

Massachusetts Keystone Project, offered at the campus at Harvard Forest in Petersham; Glenn C attended this 3-day program at Harvard Forest on April 14-17th – He shared that it was an excellent and VERY full program; lots of professional networking many speakers presented on many subjects: health of forests, succession of forests, diff conservation options, invasives, not only plants but white-tailed deer, etc; an outstanding program; focus of program is to educate landowners about options with their land: most land owners in Massachusetts are 60 years or older; so the land will be turned over in the next decade or so.... Glenn highly recommends this program- It has many sponsors, and so they are able to keep the cost down to only \$50 per participant – and offered many printed resources as take-home items as well. The program encourages participants to return to their own communities and contribute in local conservation efforts where they can..

Approval of minutes: April 7, 2016; Approved with minor correction AIF

Meeting Adjourned: 9:50 pm Motion: SC; 2nd: DB Vote: AIF

Next Meetings: Thursday, May 5, 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