

Sturbridge Conservation Commission
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA -- CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Meeting Minutes Approved 4/5/18

Sturbridge Center Office Building, 2nd Floor

6:00 PM -- Meeting Called to Order/ Ed Goodwin, Chair

Quorum Check: Confirmed

Members Present: Ed Goodwin (EG), Chair
Steve Chidester (SC), Vice Chair
Dave Barnicle (DB)
Steve Halterman (SH)
Paul Zapun (PZ)

Others Present: Conservation Agent Rebecca Gendreau, Conservation Clerk Anne Renaud-Jones;
Daniel Krasnecky, Peter Engle, Tom Chamberland, Gary Staab, Diana LeBlanc,
Roger LeBlanc

6:00 PM Open Meeting - Quorum check

Committee Updates: CPA (EG) did not meet, no report submitted
Trail Committee: (DB): did not meet, no report submitted

Walk-ins Hamilton Rod&Gun Club: Dan Krasnecky regarding the 2018 R100 3D Archery Event for weekend of June 22 through June 24th.
Dan Krasnecky present: Would like to request permission for use of a portion of the Plimpton Community Forest property, which abuts Hamilton Rod&Gun Club, for our annual event hosting the Rhinehart R100 3D Archery Shoot. Event usually draws 300-500 shooters; we do some minor trimming to clear paths to the targets; approx. 3 feet wide and 20-50 ft long; presented map to the Commission to show section of proposed use; All parking is at the R&G Club, up to 300 cars; We've usually done set up on Friday, but have been asked to open the shoot on Friday afternoon ; The Rod&Gun Club adds the Town of Sturbridge to their Insurance for the time period of this event. We will send paperwork to Agent RG when all is prepared.
- Commission consensus to permit this activity.

Public Hearings

6:15 Request for Determination of Applicability: 1 River Road; Hadley Zabinski; Redevelopment of site for pet daycare facility; Removal of existing gravel parking lot and associated landscaping to loam and seed. Represented by Bertin Engineering. Peter Engle presenting: This is a proposal for a dog daycare facility; the only work in the riverfront is the area where we are removing a small gravel parking lot and replacing it with grass and plantings; rest of the area will be fenced in Astroturf areas for the animals. Waste removal is done every 2-3 hours, liquid waste flows through an underground system which acts similar to a septic system; Agent RG: Commission has visited this site; Minimal work within our jurisdiction; loam and seeding to replace the parking area, planting of trees;

Stormwater outfall is outside our jurisdiction but is close, would recommend to include pre-treatment measures; Recommend a Positive #5 and a Negative #3, with erosion controls.

DB suggested directing roof runoff instead of letting it sheet flow; SH: appears to be an improvement ;

- Motion: DB to close the Public Hearing, approve the project with conditions and issue a determination as recommended by the Agent:

- Positive Determination #5; this project is subject to review and approval by the Town of Sturbridge under the Town Wetlands Bylaw.

and a Negative Determination #3: The work described is within the Buffer Zone, but will not alter an area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, the work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent. 2nd SC:

Vote: 4:0 (PZ abstains)

- 6:30 Request for Determination of Applicability; 10 Shattuck Road (at 1 OSV Road Trailhead); Sturbridge Trails Committee ; construction of a gravel parking lot in the buffer zone. Legal Notice and Abutter notification receipts have been received;
- Tom Chamberland and Gay Staab presenting:
 - This plan was originally permitted in 2010, but delayed due to Hamant Brook Dam removal project: Plan was originally designed for 33 parking spots, including horse trailer parking ; We have funding in place for this and are ready to proceed, but permit has expired.
 - DPW has suggested reducing capacity by 1 vehicle to avoid one spot where significant excavation would be necessary; so new capacity is approx. 30 parking spots
 - We have met with OSV and have a temporary easement.
 - Agent RG: Yes, this project was previous permitted; it has already been cleared of vegetation – because it was the landing area for the Dam Removal project; it will have an infiltration trench and we may ask to add erosion controls; This is a Request for Determination of Applicability, and my recommendation would be a Positive Determination #5: and a Negative Determination #3:
 - PZ ok; EG ok; SC ok.... DB asked about more clearing for the gate installation; TC: if necessary, work would be very minimal...; we will be demolishing the old gate, new gate will be wood posts with metal gate. -
 - Agent RG: the state still needs to go back and wrap up their work and they also have some landscaping to do may want to wait until final work is done before completing parking lot...
 - Motion (DB) to close the Public Hearing, approve this project, and find the following Determination: Positive Determination #5: The area and/or work described on referenced plan(s) and document(s) is subject to review and approval by the Sturbridge Conservation Commission, and a Negative Determination #3: The work described is within the Buffer Zone, but will not alter an area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, the work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent.
 - Will condition to check for drainage and erosion controls. Vote: AIF

Letter Permits

Tree Removal Request: 56 Goodrich Road; Roger & Diana Leblanc: 4 trees; Roger & Diana Leblanc both present: Commission did visit this site; Agent RG: there are a total of 8 trees; 1 small white pine +/- 125 feet from lake; hemlock near the stairs was looked at by certified arborist; it has wooly adelgid and was recommended to be removed; cluster of hemlocks near the front also have adelgid; Agent RG: roots need to stay in place; no replacements are necessary: Commission consensus to approve; AIF

Old Business

Update 32 Tantasqua Shore: Mr. Brochu is working w Jalbert Engineering and Soper Construction to install erosion controls as soon as weather allows; RG asked the ConCom how they would like the restoration to proceed: through a NOI or Enforcement order. ConCom will have him file a Notice of Intent.

Update 22 Cedar Lake: Will be coming to our next meeting; Have spoken to both the owner and the contractor; contractor will take care soil as soon as he can; Commission was upset this has not been taken care of yet.

Request for Certificate of Compliance: DEP# 300-910; 114 Leadmine; Watsky – SIGNED

Order of Conditions: DEP#300-1006: 202 Lake Road: Stearns - SIGNED

Agent RG made note of a new letter she is using – a Certificate of Understanding: outlining an applicant's responsibility regarding an OOC: She will send to the Commission.

Approval of minutes: Minutes were not ready for approval.

Agent Report

- CPC Meeting March 21st ; Agent RG: is planning to Attend: She has been researching several town-owned properties that may be of value as open space to bring to the meeting for discussion; She has also been researching costs associated with removal of dilapidated buildings on Leadmine Mountain, Heins Farm and Plimpton properties - and has discussed with Finance Dept possibly asking CPC for funds for these projects :
 - Commissioners reminded that removal of invasive species can be considered “preservation of an asset” and therefore could be eligible for funding; DB: spoke about several locations that may be appropriate for installing “Pocket Parks” ; EG spoke about past conversations about installing a canoe/kayak launch on Route 15 at the Shepard parcel- which has been talked about for several years....
- Lakes Brochure: “Protecting these Beautiful Lakes”; This brochure is being reprinted and Agent recommends minor changes to some of the wording:
 - Under “*Projects/Activities that do not require Permitting*”: they eliminated the first bullet regarding Retainer Walls because it could easily be misunderstood. Commission would rather have residents call to discuss the project before assuming scope of work.
 - 2nd bullet in same section: removed the first word “Other” from that statement.
 - Notation about Lake Drawdown was edited to read: “In Sturbridge [lake drawdown] is done **on or after** November 1st.”
 - Commissioners agreed to all changes.
- Office has received plan for Rapsallion for a new location for the Trailer and the Disc Golf hole#1: RG shared plan with Commission, They will add to site visit on April 3rd;
- Agent received an email from Phil Saunders, who the Commission met at the recent MACC Conference; he sent along information regarding the Public Lands Preservation Act (PLPA, S.2181), the Article 97 bill No-net-loss bill. The PLPA is endorsed by the MACC and 100+ supporting organizations and CONCOMs.
 - RG forwarded the email on to Commission: Mr. Saunders was seeking the Commission's support of the Bill through sending a letter to Senate Ways & Means. Commission agreed to send letter of support.
- Agent has rec'd an email from John Vizard, president of Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Assoc (QQLA) regarding the new Draft National Pollution Discharge Permit (NPDES) for the Spencer Wastewater Treatment Plant (SWWTP) to discharge treated domestic and industrial wastewater into the Cranberry River and subsequently into the 7 Mile River.

The commission discussed both the history and current conditions of the lake and the discharge from Spencer WWTP; Then asked the agent to compose a letter to the EPA in support of QQLA, stating that we support the improved standards incorporated into this revised permit for the SWWTP, we believe that increase monitoring and enforcement is also necessary, we continue to have concerns about the effluence being deposited into the pond, which has the status of a Great Pond, and which this Commission views as a violation of the WPA, and we support QQLA in their continuing work towards the health of these ponds.

Additionally, QQLA mentioned another issue regarding South Pond; MassDOT is scheduling a bridge/flow-barrier replacement in FY19. An attached report, "Commentary on the 2006 TMDL Implementation to Benefit our Lakes" (Total Maximum Daily Load) was forwarded to the Commission; Commissioner SHalterman reviewed the report and submitted comments via email to the commission for discussion. After some discussion, the Commission agreed it could not take a position on this project.

- **Commissioner Paul Zapun mentioned that he will be away and will miss the two April meetings but will be back for the May 3 meeting.

Adjourn 7:45Pm Motion to Adjourn (SC: 2nd DB; Vote AIF

*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*