

Conservation Commission Meeting
Sharon Community Center
September 20, 2018 – DRAFT

Margaret Arguimbau, Chair, Jon Wasserman, Michael Donatelle, and Alan Westman and Meredith Avery were the members present. Keevin Geller and Stephen Cremer and were not present. The Conservation Administrator, Greg Meister, was also present.

A sign-in sheet is on file in the office listing other attendees of the meeting.

7:45 PM – Hearing Continuance: 635 Old Post Road

Eric Diaz from Strongpoint Engineering was presenting for the applicant. He was before the Commission about six weeks ago asking for reinstatement of the Order of Conditions for 635 Old Post Road. The developer of the property would like to get the project back on track. At that meeting the Commission asked for the developer to complete three things prior to an Order being issued:

1) Issuance of a Conservation Restriction (CR) at the back end of the property where the land connects to a larger parcel closer to Route 1. Diaz noted that this has been completed. (A signed copy is on file in Conservation office. 2.) Wetland Restoration due to excess clearing. Jon Rockwood had been hired to oversee the restoration and to issue reports noting progress. As of several weeks ago, the removal of buckthorn remained. Since that time it has been removed. Rockwood has filed his final report (on file in office.) 3) General Housekeeping needed to be taken care of. This included providing erosion control measures at the perimeter of the project, which has been done. There was concern from an abutter about tracking debris from the site onto the street. Measures have been taken so this will not occur.

Diaz was asked how often he was on the project site. He replied that during erosion control measures, he was on site every other week. Since that time, he has been on site about once weekly. The developer would like to begin putting in the foundation before the onset of winter as well as to rebuild the retaining wall. The retaining wall will be built at the same location as the existing retaining wall.

Motion: to close hearing.
Donatelle, Westman 5-0-0

Motion: to and issue orders per plan.
Avery, Donatelle 5-0-0

Members signed the Orders

Members signed the following:

- Conservation Restriction (CR) for 1145 and 1225 General Edwards Highway
This CR protects the remainder of this property and consists of approximately 12 acres.
- Vouchers

Cranberry Bogs

Meister and Arguimbau met with Bottomley and walked around the bogs, getting a feel for the bog area. A lot of the old infrastructure of the bogs remained. The Commission will need to decide if they wish for the bogs to remain as bogs or if they want the bogs to revert to wetlands.

Bottomley will assist the Commission in finding a partner to assist with the bogs including harvesting. He has recommended a couple of folks who might be interested in assisting managing the bogs and will attend any joint meetings to help the process along.

If a suitable partner is unable to be found, then wetland restoration of the bogs should begin. If bogs are to remain as bogs, and if they are to be harvested, the crop can be organic. A permitting process will need to be followed through, but no pesticides have been used on the area in several years. Prior to development of the area, the original bogs were not organic. Arguimbau showed members a picture of the bogs dating back to 2007.

As mentioned previously, the developer, Spiegel, would like an area which is aesthetically pleasing, whether bogs, or wetlands.

Mowing of the bogs has not yet happened. Hopefully the bog area will be mowed within the next couple of weeks. Meister and Arguimbau are clarifying the responsibility of the developer per the development agreement with respect to the bogs.

Town Master Plan Update

Arguimbau noted the next meeting is in late October. The committee is currently reviewing various town maps. Arguimbau will ask about incorporating some of these maps into the Conservation and Recreation Open Space Plan. Arguimbau also noted that April Forsman did a great job on updating the maps. The Town Master Plan Committee will be putting out a survey shortly, asking town residents for their feedback. Members from the Town Master Plan will attend the various school open houses to promote the survey.

Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRMP) - Avery forwarded document to Arguimbau who has added additional information. She will forward to the Commission for their review.

8:00 PM – Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRMP)

Meeting with Linda Berger, Recreation Director, and two members of Recreation Advisory - Gary Bluestein and Steve Ferrara

Arguimbau mentioned that the recent OSRMP survey had fewer respondents (257) than the survey done several years ago (800). Perhaps the reason was prior survey was mailed to all Sharon homes, while this one was online only. Information gathered from the Town Master Plan regarding conservation, recreation and open space will be incorporated into the OSRMP.

Arguimbau asked if Berger had any thoughts on the results of the survey regarding recreation. Berger responded that the results were not too surprising, that access to beach was very important. Folks were interested in a splash pad. Rec Advisory is looking into increasing play items at the main beach, and possibly installing a splash pad at the playground. Future plans being looked at also include LED lights at the tennis courts, fencing around the playground, a new bathroom structure at Community Center Beach. The town has been very supportive over the past few years with updating of the basketball courts, installation of safety fencing at the lake and adding cement walkways. Development of a five year plan regarding updating facilities and

equipment will assist in reigning in costs. Recreation has been updating its structures and all are now ADA compliant. Future improvements being looked at include: a work-out facility, swimming pool, bike paths, and additional fields. Rec Advisory will look at the Town Master plan; evaluate what is really needed and available funding. They will also look at what the Town has and how can be utilized. The DPW will be improving bike paths and walkable sidewalks.

Berger mentioned that Rec Advisory was looking into irrigation at Veteran's Memorial Park. It is hoped that installation of irrigation would assist in developing that area into more of a lawn area and potentially attracting more concert goers in the summer. A patio in front of the concession stand has been installed. Berger also spoke about fencing at the playground. It currently is in place, however, would like to expand upon it.

Lease agreement for small field located at Everwood Day Camp. This lease is very structured as to the time and dates the field is available. Everwood has been great working with the Town. Recreation has partnered with Everwood in the summer concert program. Rec Advisory looked at the field located at Gannet. It was determined that in order to make the field usable, a number of trees would need to be removed. It is hoped that the trees are not removed, as they are part of what makes that area unique.

This past year an Eagle scout put down some boards along the trail where Morse Street and Lakeview Street come together.

The format of this OSRMP plan is different than the one last prepared. Arguimbau would like to work with Berger to incorporate the recreational findings into the current plan.

Berger will look at and forward her updates to Arguimbau.

Arguimbau has been in contact with the State regarding the OSRMP. They are OK with the sharing of information, however they would like submittal of the plan sooner rather than later. Avery has been working on incorporating the updates. She will forward a copy to Berger.

Town Master Plan survey is available on line. Town employees have been asked to complete.

Rec Advisory and Conservation Commission should meet again once the document is more complete. Rec Advisory's next meeting is October 18, 2018, the same as the Commissions. Perhaps start Commission meeting a bit earlier to allow for Rec Advisory to come in.

Approval of Meeting Minutes September 6, 2018

Erosion control off of Deborah Sampson will be done.

Motion: to accept meeting minutes dated September 6, 2018 as amended.
Wasserman, Westman 4-0-1

Motion: to adjourn
Westman, Wasserman 5-0-0