

Conservation Commission Meeting  
Sharon Community Center  
September 6, 2018 – DRAFT

Margaret Arguimbau, Chair, Jon Wasserman, Michael Donatelle, and Alan Wasserman were the members present. Keevin Geller, Stephen Cremer and Meredith Avery 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 – Manns Pond**

Jonathan Edgerton of Wright-Pierce presented to the Commission. They have been retained by the Town for the Manns Pond dam project. Edgerton explained to Commission that Mass DCR has jurisdiction over dam safety, and it is DCR'S opinion that stumps along the dam must be removed for safety reasons. The dam has been surveyed (plans on file in office). Egerton noted that guidelines for tree and stump removal are established by FEMA. For this project the removal of the stump and rootball system will take place, and backfill of the void space will be from specialized material as specified in the submitted plans. In looking at and surveying the site, removal of the stumps has been broken down into several zones, and is based on the size and location of the stumps. Those stumps located to the rear of the dam are of most concern to DCR. It is anticipated that the pond will be lowered approximately three feet to assist in the dewatering system for those stumps located at the rear of the dam.

A wetland delineation of the pond was performed by Caron Environmental and is noted on the enclosed plan. It is anticipated that there will be approximately 1180 SF of temporary wetland impact needed for equipment access. Matting will be laid down along access road off of Manns Hill. Erosion control will be provided and the Conservation Administrator will be consulted. A question was raised regarding erosion control off of Deborah Sampson access road. O'Cain responded they will do whatever Commission wishes, and that perhaps will look into adding this area into the project. With regards to impact of wetlands, it is anticipated that there will be 1750 SF of wetland alteration associated with the stump removal and wetland restoration. O'Cain noted that they are looking to complete this project next summer (2019).

Arguimbau asked for an explanation as to why the water needs to be drawn down. Edgerton explained that dams leak and the leakage can cause instability in the area. DCR is all about safety, and they believe to safely remove the stumps, the pond will need to be drawn down. The wetland area which will be disturbed will be revegetated. There was concern with dewatering flows and protection of the existing wetlands. Edgerton informed Commission that a temporary basin will be created in which water will flow.

Wasserman asked about the process for selecting stumps to be removed. Edgerton explained that per FEMA guidelines, if trees (stumps) posed a risk to the dam, then they were to be removed. It was determined that all stumps located within the wetlands posed a safety risk and needed to be removed.

Abutter comments: Concern about number of trees cut down. Edgerton explained that per DCR Dam Guidelines, for safety reasons, all trees in proximity to a dam must be removed. Abutter was concerned about transparency and honesty. When she initially phoned DCR to inquire why trees had to be removed, she was told the trees were rotted. This was not the case. It was again

explained that the removal of the trees around the dam were per the DCR and guidelines set forth by FEMA. It is a safety issue. Having trees along dams can be problematic.

An abutter noted the monitoring wells located along the dam. He believes that they are dangerous and he was hoping that if they are no longer in use, that they will be capped. O'Cain agreed and will look into capping and "abandoning" the monitoring wells.

Another abutter noted the decrease in the health of the pond over the years. Weeds have overtaken a majority of the pond, making it almost impossible to fish. Sediment is throughout the pond. Each time the pond has been drawn down over the years, the weeds seem to be growing back thicker and heavier. He is concerned about the health of the pond moving forward. O'Cain noted that he is working with a fixed budget, a budget for dam maintenance and repair. He does not believe there is extra funding to take care of the weeds. Meister will look into possible treatment, but it is not cheap. Would need to get someone to come out and look at the pond and provide an estimate for treatment.

Hearing to be closed – additional erosion control will be required. Work with Meister.

**Motion:** per plan, phone office prior to beginning work.  
Westman, Donatelle 4-0-0

**8:00 PM – Hearing. Request for Determination, 35 Sunset Drive. Patio Enclosure**

The applicant is looking to construct a three season room atop of existing deck. Meister reviewed the proposed project. No expansion of the porch area. The existing deck is currently permitted and noted on plot plan. Existing sonar tubes will remain.

**Motion** to issue a negative determination per plan.  
Wasserman, Donatelle 4-0-0

**8:15 PM – Required Commission vote regarding Deborah Sampson Land Swap**

Parcel F was carved out of land located at Deborah Sampson. The dorm, which was located on parcel F, was left in good shape, unfortunately, over time, it went into disrepair. Civil Defense was originally looking at this area for their building, however the area is currently being used for recreational uses and there was a lot of push back. Looking at the land from an economic perspective, it makes sense to swap parcel F for parcel T. Parcel T is currently owned by the National Park Service (NPS). This parcel seems to be the ideal location to build the Civil Defense building. The Board of Selectman have jurisdiction over parcel T. Trees were removed prior to approval from the NPS. In order to properly follow the required process, the Town stopped all work on Parcel T. The Town has reached out the National Park Service. Meister feels that it is now ok to move ahead and approve a motion to swap parcels.

**Motion:** Given that the Conservation Commission understands the proposal being presented by the Town to the National Park Service (NPS) regarding the release of parkland to construct a Town Civil Defense building; and, previously the Town held an unrestricted 2.2 acre parcel (Parcel F) within Deborah Sampson Park; the present proposal requests permission for municipal use of a .8acre parcel (Parcel T) for the Civil Defense building, and in exchange, the previously

unrestricted 2.2 acre parcel (Parcel F) will be incorporated into the park. Therefore, it is moved, pending approval of the NPS, that the Conservation Commission supports the concept of the change in designation.

Moved to accept motion as read: Wasserman, Westman 4-0-0

Meister will reach out to Turkington tomorrow to let him know how the vote went.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes August 16, 2018**

Minor grammatical corrections

**Motion:** to accept meeting minutes dated August 16, 2018 as amended.

Wasserman, Arguimbau 3-0-1

Next Commission meeting: September 20

- Add Recreation (Berger) to the agenda
- Add bogs to the agenda
- Targeted parcels

Members signed the following:

- Conservation Restriction (CR) for 635 Old Post Road (Housing Complex). This CR protects the back of the property (behind where buildings are located) as well as approximately 12 acres towards Route 95. The Board of Selectman (BOS) will sign the CR at their next meeting. The applicant has treated the buckthorn. Rockwood has filed his final inspection. Meister will ask developer to come in once the BOS sign the CR
- Vouchers
- Certificate of Compliance: 8 Cannonball Road

### **Town Master Plan**

Arguimbau informed Commission members that there was a Master Plan meeting last night. The company hired to prepare the plan have been attending many activities around town and are almost ready to release a town-wide survey. They plan on being at the back to school open houses to distribute information and talk about the Town Master Plan. Arguimbau met with Forsman about the maps the Master Plan Committee will be distributing. Arguimbau would like to incorporate Open Space, Land Use, Transportation, etc.... into the Town Master Plan. She and Forsman are looking at current maps to ensure they are correct. The Town Master Plan committee's next meeting is either September 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>. High school students have been invited to participate in the Town Master Plan working sessions to get their perspective on what Sharon should look like.

### **Open Space Master Plan Survey**

Arguimbau will be meeting with Avery to review

**Lake Update**

The lake is closed for the season. Presently, the lake level is low, due to the high temperatures and humidity over the past several days. There were no beach closings this summer. Though there were a few high readings, retesting of the sites showed all was OK.

The lagoon was treated a second time. Suction harvesting was performed at the boat launch area yesterday. The crew spent two days cleaning out the area.

The Commission should think about possibly treating Manns Pond. Meister noted that there is not much they can do about the silt, but they may be able to do something about the weeds.

Hooper, DPW Superintendent, did some testing of the pond a number of years ago and heavy metals were found to be present.

**Motion:** to adjourn

Westman, Wasserman 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm