Conservation Commission Meeting

Sharon Community Center

October 30, 2014 - DRAFT

Peg Arguimbau, Chairperson, Elizabeth McGrath, Merideth Avery, Alan Westman, and Keevin Geller were the members present.  Stephen Cremer & Linda Orel were absent from the meeting. The Conservation Administrator, Greg Meister, was also present.

Meeting started at 7:45:pm

**7:45 pm – Hearing Continuance, Notice of Intent,  232-264 Norwood Street**

**MooseHill Development Corp – Everett Street Paving**

**DEP File #SE280-0560**

Jeff Kane of L&L Engineering Group representing the client.  He had meetings with the Planning Board, Meister and the peer review consultant (Brodmerkle of Site Design Professionals, LLC). Part of the discussions included how to mesh the Planning Boards regulations with those of the Conservation Commission. The Planning Board decided they would revert back to their original regulations and the project would be treated as a standard development.

The road survey was also revised, moving the roadway as requested by the Commission at a prior hearing. This new design meets DEP requirements. There was also a change with respect to a small basin, so that the water flow does not go over the road.

The revised survey and plans were submitted for review by Paul Brodmerkle, the peer consultant.

Brodmerkle shared his report with the Commission (Site Design Professionals, LLC, Engineering Review, Everett Street Improvements, DEP  #SE280-0560; report on file). He explained to the Commission that there was no reason why the project can’t move forward.

Arguimbau mentioned that the Commission would be meeting next week and would vote at that time.

The developer explained that they would like to begin work on the project and to start cutting trees.  They will be before the Planning Board on November 5th and would appreciate a vote from the Commission, with caveats of what will need to be protected. The applicant explained that the Planning Board wanted a decision by the Commission with respect to the scenic road.

A discussion followed.  Members were hesitant to vote on the entirety of the project.

Mass Audubon representative, Kate Connolly, attorney, was concerned that if the Commission closed the hearing tonight that her client would be unable to comment on the project.

Arguimbau made a motion to approve constructive approval with exception of stormwater details but was not seconded.  Discussion followed as to wording of motion so to allow applicant to begin work at the site.

Mass Audubon was concerned as they had not yet seen the new plans.  They will be receiving the updated plans tomorrow and would prefer that the hearing not be closed.

The Commission decided to write a letter to the Zoning Board, letting them know that the roadway, as presented on the revised plans, is fine with the Conservation Commission.

**Motion:** to continue hearing to November 6th with detail changes as outlined in the Site Design Professionals, LLC memo provided from the peer consultant, Brodmerkle.  The hearing will be at 7:45pm.

Avery, McGrath 5-0-0

**8:00pm –** **Discussion: Hammershop Pond Dam**

A meeting was held at Hammershop pond.  Attendees included Meister, Selectman Roach, Town Engineer O’Cain, DPW Superintendent Hooper, and representatives from DCR and GZA. O’Cain prepared a memo to the Commission which was read out loud.  Memo on file. The Town will have until November 30, 2015 to either completely repair the dam or to breach the dam.

Hooper will be presenting two options to Capital Outlay on December 4th. 1) Fix the dam 2) Remove (breach) the dam.  Hooper would like to present to Capital jointly with the Commission. (DPW & Conservation).  Anyone wishing to comment on the project should do so and letters are encouraged.  Interested parties should pay attention to what is happening as the Dam project most likely will be discussed by several Town Boards over the coming months.  Capital Outlay is the first step.

GZA is designing a coffer dam which will be constructed in front of the failed wooden structure. The Commission will provide Emergency Certification once it has been determined how to proceed.

At some point the Commission will need to decide where they stand.  At this point, no formal vote has been taken. More information on the project (fix or breach) is needed.

Hammershop Pond Dam is a historic dam which qualifies it for funding from the CPC.  A request for funding from the CPC has been filed by the DPW and will be discussed at the CPC meeting on either November 6th or November 20th. If CPC recommends funding be granted for the dam project, the project will need to be voted on at the May town meeting.  Money for the dam project can only come from one source, either through the CPC or through Capital. Funds can’t come from both.

**Lake Update:** Lycott came out and found no fanwart. They believe that the treatment was effective. The Botanist is finishing up the survey of the toothcup plant and is putting together a plan in case the Town will need to treat fanwart again. This plan will help to assist in determining how much water should be let out of the lake.

Next Tuesday there will be a meeting of the newly formed lake committee.  McGrath will report on this meeting at the Commissions meeting on November 6th.

R. McGrath is putting together a formal write-up of his findings on the reports he has been reviewing. He needs some more information and will reach out to Meister.

Commission’s appointee to the newly formed Lake Committee.  Towner, of Lake Management Advisory Board has been asked to provide reports and documents to the Board of Selectman.  According to Meister, Lake Management is only responsible for providing meeting minutes.  Meister has been putting together the various reports and documents requested by the Selectman.  As these reports are originals, he hopes to receive them back.  It was discussed that a good policy would be to scan the reports and in the future, to ask for not only hard copies of reports, but a pdf as well.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** of September 18.

Meister is misspelled. Change DeCarbonnell to Avery.

Motion to accept minutes as amended: Geller, Westman 5-0-0

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** of October 2

Correct typo on page two – should say: riprap

Motion to accept minutes as amended: Westman, Geller 5-0-0

Voucher was signed

Certificate of Compliance: 54 Deborah Sampson was signed.

Beginning in November will be back on meeting schedule of the first and third Thursday of the month. Continue tonight's discussion (lake). The procedure for re-appointments has changed. Arguimbau will be meeting with the Selectman on the 25th  of November at 8:30pm.  She has been asked to update the Selectman on the activities of the Commission.

The next Conservation Commission meeting will be on November 6th.

Motion to adjourn. Westman, Geller 5-0-0

**Meeting adjourned at 10pm**