

Conservation Commission Meeting
Sharon Community Center
February 19, 2015

Peg Arguimbau, Chairperson, Meredith Avery, Keevin Geller, Elizabeth McGrath and Alan Westman were the members present. Linda Orel and Stephen Cremer were the members not present. The Conservation Administrator, Greg Meister, was also present.

7:45PM – Approval of Meeting Minutes:

January 22nd. For reappointment to the Lake Management Committee (#3) the sentence should state “reappointment to the Lake Management Committee is being held for the next meeting.”

Westman, Geller 5-0-0

February 5th.

Third paragraph down, after 2007 – should add “**these periodic**” logs have been kept by Meister and Towner.

Avery, Geller 3-0-2

Certificate of Compliance for 82 Baldwin (MacIntosh Farms) – Members signed.

8:00PM Continuance Hearing – Notice of Intent, 63 Canton Street.

DEP #SE280-0567 - NSTAR (Eversource) Electrical Geotechnical Borings

Avery recused herself from this hearing as she works with consultant for the project. Denise Bartone, from NSTAR (Eversource) and Doug Vingneau from VHB presented. There are five different locations identified for the geotechnical borings. Three of the locations are located near Canton St, with the other two located towards the back of the property. NSTAR will use swamp matting. NSTAR hopes to begin the project once the snow begins to melt and there is easier access. They are at the meeting tonight only for the geotechnical borings. The project is currently before the DPU who will ultimately make the decision on whether the project will be able to proceed. NSTAR is before the Commission tonight seeking permission for the borings only, and to put in the swamp matting. Hay bales will be used and will be placed around the area where the borings will be performed.

Motion to close the hearing

Geller, Westman 4-0-0

Order of Condition: should be per plan. Forty Eight hour notification should be given to the Commission prior to any work to beginning.

Motion for the Order of Conditions.

Geller, McGrath 4-0-0

Warrants: passed around for signing by Commission Members

Updates:

Guidelines and Bylaws – Orel was not present, put off to another meeting

Selectman Meeting with BOS regarding the Lake – Geller updated the Commission members on his meeting with the Board of Selectman. He believes that the meeting went well. The BOS were notified in advance that he wanted to discuss issues concerning the lake and believed they were receptive to the Commission's concerns. Selectman McGrath has spoken with Chief Bernstein about the possibility of extra patrols around the Lake, especially during the early morning hours when fisherman tend to go out on the Lake. Geller also spoke about invasive species signage around the Lake. He suggested that a sign be put up next to the loading dock. Geller was asked to provide Commission members signs which he felt were appropriate

Meister asked if the issue of Jet Skis was brought up? Geller responded that he did not bring that issue up as the meeting was non-confrontational and the subject of Jet Skis was, in his opinion, controversial, and that it should be a topic of discussion another time. He suggested that if the Commission believed Jet Skis should be discussed with the BOS, that a vote, similar to the one taken for Geller to meet with the BOS on invasives, should be taken. He or another Commission member could then meet with the BOS at another meeting. Geller believes that all three BOS are on board with signage and police presence and that they were appreciative of our effort to speak with them.

Discussion at the next Commission meeting should include:

- Signage at the lake.
- Jet Ski's

Lake Management Review Committee (LMRC) - McGrath updated the Commission on the LMRC's last meeting. Meister presented and has been asked to present again at the next meeting scheduled for March 5th at 7pm. Meister indicated that this time he would not so respectfully decline to speak at the next meeting. It was believed that LMRC members were looking for a presentation, not a Q&A session. Commission members decided that Avery and McGrath would prepare a presentation for the next LMRC meeting. Perhaps include 10 slides referencing key elements of data already presented, (maybe the graph Lauenstein prepared) along with possible solutions.

From what Avery has heard about the prior meeting, members were looking at the incorrect metrics. Avery would like to correct this and include correct information in the presentation, perhaps with Meister assisting in putting something together. To allow for more time for the presentation, the Conservation Commission meeting should begin at 8:30pm instead of 7:45pm.

Old/New Business

Arguimbau heard from both of the Commissions appointees to the Lake Management Committee (LMC). Noah Siegal would like to be reappointed. He is currently Vice Chair and will take over the responsibility of the Chairmanship.

Cliff Towner, the current Chair of LMC, resigned his position at the last LMC meeting leaving a vacancy on the committee. Anyone interested in being on the LMC should send a letter of interest to the Conservation Commission.

Arguimbau would be sending Towner a certificate of appreciation for his 21 years of service on the LMC. She also suggested that at some point, a joint meeting between the LMC and the Commission should be held in order to realign both Committees.

Discuss/vote Noah Siegal's reappointment to the Lake Management Committee
McGrath, Geller 5-0-0

Arguimbau will email Siegal and let him know of his reappointment to the LMC. She will also look into advertising the open position on LMC.

Open Space Recreation Master Plan meeting has been cancelled due to inclement weather. The meeting will be rescheduled to the end of March, beginning of April.

McGrath brought up that at the last BOS meeting there was discussion on the study of recreational fields in Town. She mentioned that as part of the conclusion of the study, they were looking to develop the area across the street from Gavins Pond. The old dump site was also mentioned, though not being considered.

With respect to the old dumpsite, Meister offered to get land or money to help build the field. This was not acted upon. Additionally, it was thought that from the State level, the landfill could not be used for fields, although landfills can be used for fields, though a special kind of cap would be required in order to put in the fields. Meister mentioned that building fields was turned down at town meeting for funding both at the landfill and at Gavins Pond.

Lake update: Meister was asked if he was able to get into the flumes? He responded that he has not accessed the flumes since the last meeting. It is Meister's belief, that at this time of year, there really is no reason to get into the flumes. Some members expressed concern about rain and the snow melting, especially with only half of the boards in.

There was discussion about a reserve fund transfer for repair of Hammershop Pond Dam since it was the Commission who requested the temporary repair. The Commission is a regulatory agency which enforces regulations and should not be responsible for overseeing the repair of the Dam. Not sure if funding of repair of the Dam will be brought up at the next CPC meeting.

Meister's concern for the Dam is that boards were removed illegally, there was no notification to the Commission and because the Commission asked for a filing, they are taking a beating. It is Meister's belief that there were many warnings over the years of the deterioration of the boards and he asked how the dam was allowed to get to the condition it got to.

It was mentioned that a representative from the Commission should attend future Finance Committee meetings if funding for the Dam is on the agenda. The CPC will be meeting with funding for the Dam to be discussed (a possible reserve fund transfer). A Commission member mentioned that the Town Manager thinks that it might be possible to fold the funding for a temporary repair into a permanent fix. There may also be funds from the historical fund.

A request for an extension to perform work at the Dam was requested. There was an order for work to be completed prior to January 31st, but no work has been done.

Members signed the Order of Conditions for 63 Canton Street (NSTAR).

Next Commission meeting is March 5th. The meeting should begin at 8.30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm

Motion to Adjourn

Geller, Westman 5-0-0