

Conservation Commission Meeting
Sharon Community Center
March 6, 2014

Peg Arguimbau, Chariperson, Stephen Cremer, Christine Turnbull, Linda Orel and Keevin Geller were the members present. Conservation Commission member Betsy McGrath was absent from the meeting. The Conservation Administrator, Greg Meister, was also present. Cremer arrived late.

**7:45pm Request for Determination of Applicability
25 Lyndon Drive**

Jim Miller of Miller Engineering representing applicant. A plan for construction of a two-car garage was presented. There is an intermittent stream located at the back of lot. The 100 foot buffer line goes through the property, but the garage will be located outside the buffer zone. A sediment sock has been placed around the home and continuing around the corner so as not to disturb wetland area and to prevent debris from entering into the wetlands.

Motion to Close Hearing

Geller, Orel
4-0-0

Motion to Issue Negative Determination

Per plan, notification to office to let Administrator know when work will begin.
Geller, Orel
4-0-0

8:00pm Notice of Intent (continuation of hearing)

Open and continue hearing to March 20, 2014, with a time to be determined.
Cremer, Geller
5-0-0

Meeting minutes of February 20, 2014

- * 28 Beach Road, take out first "proposed".
- * Last paragraph on page 2, it would be nice if BOS also supported.....
- * First paragraph on page 3, should be "approves"

Motion to accept minutes as amended

Turnbull, Cremer
4-0-1

8:15pm Public Forum: Banning within the Town of Sharon the use of jet skis, surf jets, jet boats, wetbikes and or any vessel propelled by a water jet pump or other machinery as its primary source of motor propulsion.

The banning of Jet Skis and other personal watercraft propelled by a water jet pump was discussed at the last meeting. The Commission is not talking about motorboats, only Jet Skis and similar personal watercraft. The concern of Jet Skis and similar type personal watercraft in Lake Massapoag is the possible introduction of invasive weeds and Asian clams.

With respect to the language used (public notice) in banning Jet Skis, a Commission member is concerned specifically, about using the word Jet Ski, Surf Jets and Waterbikes. Another Commission member would like to change **Other Machinery** (as read from public notice), to **similar Machinery**.

Another suggestion by a Commission member is that some of the craft being described is a commercial name (i.e. Jet Ski). Thinks OK, but might want to add the phrase is used on the Internet: *personal watercraft*, which is a bit more descriptive then the word *vessel*.

In researching with other towns, water jet pump was what was specific to this type of machinery.

Cremer suggested adding: “since such vehicles have been shown to transfer various invasive species in internal water storage.” To the last phrase or something similar.

Orel inquired as to whether use both Invasive and Non Native as they are two different things under the law. It was determined that both could be used.

Cremer continued, saying that he would like to make clear that this also includes non-motor powered boats. The Commission decided that the banning of Jet Ski’s, etc. should be broad but simple. The focus has to be on this specific type of craft. If something should come up later, the banning can always be amended.

A Commission member inquired as to where this language would go? Into an existing by-law or perhaps added to personal watercraft law?

According to Arguimbau, this can be an order from the Commission. Concern about enforcement was again brought up. At this time, according to the current regulations, personal watercraft falls under the Police or whomever the Selectman have delegated to enforce. If needed, the banning of Jet Skis, etc. could be placed within the boating regulations. A Commission member inquired if the Commission is authorized as a Board in Sharon to write enforcement language?

The Commission has enforcement for wetland violations. Banning of Jet Skis, etc. could be in the form of an enforcement order, however it could be simply a letter prohibiting the use of Jet Skis, etc. from the lake.

There will most likely be a large sign at the Boat Launch area informing people that Jetskis, etc.. are banned from the lake.

Additionally, a sticker will be required for use of boats in the Lake and those wishing to purchase stickers for Jet Ski's, etc... will be informed that they are no longer allowed on the lake.

Banning of Jet Skis etc.. entails all users of the lake including lakefront property owners.

Prior to making the motion to ban Jet Skis, etc., Commission members expressed their concern that only two community members were present for the discussion.

Motion made by Cremer: Moved, to ban, within the Town of Sharon, the use of personal watercraft, jet skis, surf jet boats and/or any vessel propelled by a water jet pump or similar machinery as its primary source of propulsion since such vessels have been shown to transfer various invasives and/or non-native species.

Cremer, Geller 5-0-0

8:30pm regular session adjourned

Motion was made to move into exec session to discuss land acquisition and to adjourn at end of executive session.

Geller, Cremer

Orel - Aye

Turnbull - Aye

Cremer - Aye

Arguimbau -Aye

Geller - Aye