

Conservation Commission Meeting
Sharon Community Center
October 24, 2013

Peg Arguimbau, Chairman, Hank Langstroth, Keevin Geller, Linda Orel, Stephen Cremer and Elizabeth McGrath were the members present. Conservation Commission Member Christine Turnbull was absent from the meeting. The Conservation Administrator, Greg Meister, was also present.

7.45pm: 6 Morse Street, DKW Builders. Moved to November 7th.

Commission members reviewed the meeting minutes of October 10th.

- Next to last page: Cremer quoted “chemical.....” he did not say. Change to: “in response to Cremer, Meister said that no chemical treatment
- Bottom paragraph. Law CH. 444. It is illegal to transport aquatic species: Change to: Aquatic Nuisance
- At beginning of paragraph where it says: Rattlesnake Hill. Chris LaPointe works for... Change from DCR to TPL (Trust for Public Land)
- Name spelling on second page. G for McGrath should be capitalized. Correct spelling of Geller.
- Recommendation. Put page numbers on document.

**Motion to accept minutes of October 10th as amended
Cremer, Geller. 5-0-0**

Commission members reviewed the meeting minutes of October 17th.

- Correct spelling of Geller.
- Fix spelling of clams on first page
- Add **and possibly MEPA** on second page.

**Motion to accept minutes of October 17th as amended
Langstroth, McGrath 4-0-2.**

**8.00pm: Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) Project proposed by
MassDOT along Route I95 pavement milling and maintenance resurfacing from the
Foxborough town line to the Walpole town line.**

Tom McGuire MassDot District 5 in Taunton and Mike Clements of MassDot Environmental Section, District 5 environmental section. Brief presentation of proposed project involves pavement milling, resurfacing and related items necessary to rehabilitate the roadway. Re-pavement of this section of I95 occurs approximately every 18 years. Previously resurfaced in 1996, 1978

- Resurfacing if I95 will begin at the Foxboro town line and go to the Walpole town line.
- Resurfacing will include the ramps as well as a section of South Main Street which leads to the ramp and a section of Route 1.
- MassDot will work within existing State Highway Layout. There will be no additional pavement added. Pavement milling will come through, takes off first 2 inches, replace with base course, then popcorn mix. Not using same pavement as taking off. Pavement removed will be recycled back at the plant.
- Request filed under State Wetlands Protection only. Exempt from local bylaws.
- Safety signing will be put up
- Hay bales/silt fencing will be installed near buffer zones as directed by Concom
- Selective clearing and thinning of trees and vegetation along the roadway to reestablish vehicle recovery zones and for sight distance/visibility at sign locations
- Replacement of all existing catch basin frames and grates
- Pavement milling and resurfacing of section of South Main Street including ramps

MassDot performed similar work in 1996 and included type 1, 2 and 3 treatments. Type 1 for outlet needed a new stone pad. Type 2 relocated outlet up roadway slope away from resource area. Type 3 moved the outlet further away from resource area so could allow stone pad and filtration.

A detailed listing of work to be performed this time around is summarized and included in files.

Catch basin cleaning: usually try to get contractor out on annual basis in either the spring or fall. The outlets will all be cleaned out in current contract.

Motion to issue a Negative Determination. If project will be a multi-year project, then the Commission requests that MassDot check in with the Conservation agent at beginning of project, at 6 months, at 12 months, and at project completion.

Motion to close hearing. Langstroth, Cremer 6-0-0.

It should be noted that this project is not a filing under the Sharon Wetland Protection bylaw. MassDot is exempt as it is a State Entity

25 Sturges Road has not finished up with the ZBA so will not be coming in at this time.

Motion to continue 25 Sturges Road until Commission hears from the applicant. McGrath, Cremer 6-0-0.

66 Morse Street, File number SE280-550

Motion to continue 66 Morse Street, to a later date pending applicant notifying office. Langstroth, Gellar 6-0-0.

Lake Massapoag

A Meeting was held with Meister, Arguimbau, Police Chief Bernstein, Selectman Roach, Rec Advisory Chair Bluestien, Recreation Director Levesseur, Town Manager Puritz, Tom Flannery and Steve from the State, and 2 representatives from Lycott.

The gentleman from the State brought in lots of brochures. Some were similar to what John Rockwood brought in, while others were different. A commission member asked if a file/binder could be kept at the library containing brochures and other literature regarding Invasive Species and Asian Clam.

Educational materials and other information will be compiled and left at the library.

Lycott will handle the weed invasives. Discussion centered mostly around the boat launch area and what will be done. Asian Clams were briefly discussed.

Need to come up with a plan on how to deal with the boat launch area. Discussion centered on how to monitor boat passes and the young kids who currently monitor boat launch area. Currently 16 and 17 year olds monitor the gate, but question was raised as to whether this is realistic. Perhaps an older person, perhaps establish a position? Talk of a Harbor Master which most towns have. Ours is Ben Puritz, Town Manager, but it is not realistic that he would be able to perform the function of Harbor Master on a daily basis.

* Discussion of how boats and trailers are registered.

Are trailers permitted?

Are boats permitted?

How are they registered? Car, trailer or both?

Will need to fine tune registration process. Establishment of fines/warnings? State resources and involvement with Lake discussed in length. Currently only a couple of lakes in Massachusetts have a state funded person monitoring boat launch areas, however the State does not have enough funds to fund all lakes.

Over the next two weeks develop a plan and set a date for next meeting regarding boat launch area. The gentleman from State did not seem upbeat about our ability to treat the clams. They spoke about research, but there is nothing conclusive about real damage of Asian Clams.

Members/Committees/Groups invited to the next meeting: Conservation Commission members, Rec Advisory members, Lake Management Committee, Camp Everwood and Massapoag Yacht Club as well as the representatives from the police department. For any type of enforcement to occur, it is important that Police are involved in the process. Rec Director is meeting with her board this evening and will discuss.

There was discussion about obtaining a Mussel specialist to document what and where the Asian Clam presence is. Question was raised regarding who does permitting? Specialist?

- Can clam population be controlled by putting in animals who may eat clams?
- Could scuba hobbyists be used to assist in surveying the lake? (mussels and clams)
- Additional copies of Lake 101 book – good resource for Town decision makers to have, will ask for additional copies.

Recurrence of invasive vegetation seems to always be in the same area. According to Lycott, the bottom of the lake is not conducive to supporting the growth of weeds.

Next steps:

- Concom may want to discuss what their next step should be.
- Continue on with John Rockwood?
- Should continue with clams?
- Develop a plan? Survey? We have Lycott report but what is current distribution of the rare mussels species? Flora? Fauna?

According to Meister, Heritage has some idea where the mussels are located, and they may have additional info. It is possible that a survey will be required. Towner from Lake Management Committee should come in and speak with the Commission. He is very knowledgeable on the Lake.

Request from Commission that Towner and Siegal from Lake Management come in and discuss the lake and how it is managed.

Listing of privately and publicly owned parcels around lake. Work with April at DPW to get for Commission members.

Action items of morning meeting:

- Rec advisory looking into location of existing gate and moving check in
- Boat washing station
 - Should one be installed?
 - How/who will pay?
- How to set up a budget line item for lake related issues
 - Fees for permits?
 - All departments to add money to fund?
 - Review pass structure (can put boat in water without having a pass)
 - According to State, we should know and be aware of users of the lake
 - Yachtclub and regattas
 - Camps and their boating activity
 - Individual users along lake
 - Education of users and lakefront property owners

Possibility of closing the gate at 8pm if not a state owned ramp. Will need to inquire with DEP.

Enforcement and ticketing will be discussed at the next group meeting. Need to decide on date for next meeting.

The state offers free training for identification of invasives.

Request that a list of issues and action items be prepared of the next large group meeting.

Next Commission Meeting: November 7th – Lake Management Committee (Towner and Siegal) to discuss an update and history of the lake.

A Larger group meeting, comprised of members from the ConCom, Lake Management, Rec Advisory, Camp Everwood will most likely meet during the week of November 18th. Meister asked if the meeting would be an evening meeting and Arguimbau responded yes. Lake discussion (updates) will be continued at November 21st Commission Meeting.

Update on Rattlesnake Hill. Article has been taken off the warrant. There is a scheduled meeting on October 29th with Gellerman, Heitin, Chris LaPointe from TPL, Arguimbau and Meister. Possibly Orel.

Pinewoods on Norwood Street. Parcel has been carved up into lots. They are doing wetland line for remainder of property. At some point they will have to come in front of the Commission. There is a bylaw which states that Developer cannot piecemeal the project.

Motion to adjourn. Cremer, Langstroth 6-0-0

Meeting Adjourned at 9:24pm