

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MARCH 26, 2002  
MINUTES**

**7:00 PM** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Owen.

Present were Owen, Corwin, Clements, O'Connor, Chase and Morrison (arrived 7:10)

**Discussion – McElroy – Mayfield Drive**

Marion Stoddart represented Kay Wood, an abutter to Daniel McElroy's property that stretches from Mayfield Drive to Gibbet Hill and Wood Lane.

Mrs. Wood was concerned about a farm road that Mr. McElroy was putting in over an easement on the Wood property.

Mrs. Stoddart said this area is located on the Estimated Habitat Map. Has NHESP been contacted? Has Mr. McElroy filed for work in the buffer zone?

NHESP has not been contacted for this project since a Request for Determination was filed, not a Notice of Intent.

Further discussion at the end of the meeting.

**7:10 PM Request for Determination – Ratchford – 20 Autumn Leaf Drive**

Clerk Clements read the public notice to consider the Request for Determination submitted by Michael Ratchford for an above ground swimming pool at 20 Autumn Leaf Drive, on Assessors' Lot 251/67.

Mr. and Mrs. Ratchford were present. They propose to place the pool on a near-level spot on the already grassed lawn.

The members were concerned with chlorinated water draining to the wetland.

Mr. Ratchford agreed to install a dry well to filter the water before it goes to the wetland.

The members had inspected the site on Saturday, March 23, 2002.

Vice chairman Corwin moved to issue a negative determination. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**7:15 PM Request for Determination – William Blood – 42 Fitch's Bridge Road**

Clerk Clements read the public notice to consider the Request for Determination submitted by William Blood for the replacement of a corral fence at 42 Fitch's Bridge Road on Assessors' Lot 216/60.

Mr. Blood was present and confirmed that he replaced an existing fence but does not plan any further work near the Nashua River.

Member Morrison moved to issue a negative determination. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**7:16 PM Discussion – Beals and Thomas – Open Space Plan**

Robert Weidknecht and Nancy Doon from Beals and Thomas, Inc. were present to explain the process for updating the Open Space Plan. They will be working with the 2020 Master Plan. There will be a lot of public participation and suggested an informational brochure to be handed out at Town Meeting as well as a survey to be filled out by Townspeople.

They will send the recent Workbook from EOEa.

**7:35 PM Public Hearing – Town of Groton – Weed Control at Lost Lake**

Clerk Clements read the public hearing notice to consider the Notice of Intent submitted by the Town of Groton for the management of aquatic vegetation in Lost Lake/Knops Pond with US EPA registered and State-approved herbicides and algicides.

Sylvia Sangiolo from the Groton Lakes Association made the opening remarks and submitted a copy of "The Massachusetts Lakes and Ponds Watershed Action Strategy" a report from the Blue Ribbon Committee on Lakes and Ponds from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Bob Durand, Secretary. Then Lee Lyman from Lycott Environmental, Inc. made the presentation. His report (on file in the Commission office) contained a Management Plan, a map showing locations of invasive weeds in the lakes, Material Safety Data Sheets, a report from the Groton Lakes Association on Weed Treatment Options and data on herbicides and algicides

Member Auman asked if there was any risk.

Mr. Lyman said the chemicals are completely gone 3-5 days. They go to the plant and they sink to the bottom.

Clerk Clements asked about the drinking water supply downstream from the lake.

Mr. Lyman said there was no chance of affecting the drinking water.

Vice chairman Corwin asked about the affect on species such as shrimp and jelly fish and requested a risk assessment

Mr. Lyman said the species would not be affected. He will send a copy of a risk assessment done in Lincoln on a pond owned by the Audubon Society.

Member Chace asked about the residue left on the bottom.

Mr. Lyman said it is absorbed by the plant and breaks down and is absorbed in the sediment. It does not build up in the sediment, it is not fat soluble. It falls to the bottom and degrades.

Rena Swezey, a lake resident, said the residents are willing to take the risk.

Member Morrison asked if the lake residents have taken a position.

John Diezemann, President of the Groton Lakes Association, said the residents totally agree they are willing to take the risk.

Chairman Owen asked if the Water Department would be receiving a report of testing as they did with the cambomba weed treatment?

Mr. Diezemann said the report was sent to the Board Selectmen.

Mr. Lyman said the procedure would be done in the middle to end of May.

Member O'Connor moved to close the hearing. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Member Chace left the meeting.

### **8:10 PM Meadowbrook Bond Release**

Member Morrison moved to release the amount held in the security bond, Certificate of Deposit No. 925027 to James Patierno for the replication area on Kirk Farm Road in the Meadowbrook Subdivision. The Commission had determined that the replication area has been fully and satisfactorily completed by the applicant in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Whittaker – 14 Island Road – Cleanup**

The members inspected the property on Saturday and observed that the outboard motors had been moved away from the lake as requested.

### **Extension – Griffin-White – 162 Shelters Road – 169-530**

Member Morrison moved to issue a three year extension to Ann Griffin-White for a retaining wall at 162 Shelters Road. The extension will expire on May 22, 2005.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Groton Hills Conservation Area – Kailey's Way**

On Saturday, the members walked the area with abutting homeowners to determine bounds. They found some markers but suggested that the Trails Committee help find the bounds. A public hearing will be held on May 14, 2002 to establish rules and regulations.

### **Removal of Stable on Sorhaug Woods Conservation Land**

Members of the public had requested some of the material from the stable on the Sorhaug Woods CC land when it is demolished. Due to Municipal policy, any such material would have to advertised for sale, sold at auction or removed completely from the premises by the contractor. Once it is off the premises, the contractor owns it and he may sell or give away some of the material as he sees fit. Any remaining material must be disposed of properly.

Robert Black, who has been hired for the demolition, will be contacted and asked to take the structure down carefully.

### **Lathrop/Heveran – 122 Old Ayer Road**

Since the members cannot get on the property to measure how far the barn and manure are from James Brook, the abutters, Dr. and Mrs. Rosenberger, will be asked for permission to enter their property to enable members to measure from the brook to the roadway. Then the plans from the Building Inspector will be used to determine the distance to

the barn.

### **Reynolds – Cypress Road**

Vice chairman Corwin will contact Board of Health Chairman Susan Horowitz about getting the papers filled out to take to Housing Court to seek a court order to enter the premises and measure the distance to Martins Pond Brook.

### **First Parish Church – Lowell Road – 169-773**

A letter will be sent to the building committee for the First Parish Church to fix the run off problem on Lowell Road, within 10 days. Hay bales are not in place as shown on the plan.

### **8:40 PM Request for Determination (con't) - Veduccio – 6 Redskin Trail**

Clerk Clements read the public notice to consider the continuation of a Request for Determination submitted by Frank Veduccio for the repair of the damaged foundation of existing structure and the relocation of a driveway at 6 Redskin Trail on Assessors' Lot 129/153.

Mr. Veduccio was present.

Chairman Owen said that musk turtles have been found there at the cove.

The members walked the site on Saturday and observed a very steep sloop and determined that the construction of a new driveway and garage would require more information, i.e. grading, elevations and property lines and be signed off by an engineer.

Vice chairman Corwin moved to issue a positive determination and require the filing of a NOI for the driveway and garage. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **8:50 PM Public Hearing (con't) Landwest, Inc – Academy Hill**

Clerk Clements read the public hearing continuation notice.

Don Yonika presented new plans showing open space, wetlands, trails, sidewalks, parking areas, vernal pools, waterline and drainage system.

Members were concerned about lawn creep since the houses are outside the buffer zone and suggested it be stated in the deeds.

Clerk Clements wanted to make sure the work was done in a season that would not impact rare species.

The Commission can also make the determination of what type of catch basins can be used to ensure the safety of rare species.

Brian Butler has been hired to work on the turtle situation and NHESP will be sent the plan after the Planning Board finalizes it.

Member Morrison moved to continue the hearing to April 9, 2002. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Sportsmen's Club – West Main Street – Beaver Dam**

The members inspected the pond and beaver dam at the Sportsmen's Club in response to a call that someone breached the dam. The club will be notified to contact the Board of Health for a permit.

### **Searle – 19 Court Street – 169-757 Change in Plan**

Mr. Searle was not present but submitted a request to allow a change in plan for 169-757. The diameter of the addition is to be increased from 13 feet to 18 feet. The proposal does not change the landscaping plan and it maintains the 25 foot undisturbed zone from the willow trees.

Vice chairman Corwin moved to accept the change in plan dated March 22, 2002. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Daniel McElroy - discussion continued**

After further discussion about the farm road on the Wood property, Chairman Owen move to send a letter to Daniel McElroy stating that any work not shown on the original plan in the buffer zone requires another filing. The motion was seconded and passed 5 – 1 Member Morrison abstained.

### **Bunn – 330 Lost Lake Drive**

Chairman Owen reported that he observed machinery doing work at 330 Lost Lake Drive, the Bunn property. They will be notified that they must file for additional work.

**Annese – 311 Forge Village Road 169-810**

Members observed the silt fence was loose. Mr. Annese will be told to fix it.

10:20 PM With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Montgomery  
Conservation Assistant