

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APRIL 23, 2002
MINUTES

7:00 PM The meeting was called to order by Chairman Owen.
Present were Owen, Corwin, Clements, Auman. Chace arrived 8:30 PM, Morrison arrive 9:00 PM.
Absent was O'Connor.

Discussion – Trails on McLains Woods Conservation Land

The members had received an email from Paul Funch, a member of the Trails Committee, asking for comments for possibly connecting McLains Woods to Reedy Meadow Road along a narrow strip of land that parallels the Cox/Walker property on Chicopee Row. It ends at the late Sigrid Harrison's land. Her house has been town down and a new one is going to be built. The new owners may be amenable to extending the trail along the edge of their pasture land or selling a strip.

The members had no objection to Mr. Funch pursuing this but suggested putting the trail on the orchard instead. He may want to talk to the Cox/Walkers soon. They are doing perc tests on their property now.

Request for Certificate of Compliance – Ricciardelli – Rawding Rd – DEP 169-770

Members inspected the site on Saturday and saw that the area was not stable. It looked like someone just pushed soil over the steep slope. A COC can not be issued at this time.

Minutes

Chairman Owen moved go accept the minutes of March 26, 2002 as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion – Finegan – 72 West Prescott St – Westford

Mr. Finegan was not present but had submitted a plan to the Commission for enlarging a garage on his property that is in Westford on the Groton town line. The work is in the buffer zone of stream in Westford.

Vice chairman Corwin moved to send a letter to Mr. Finegan that he does not need to file with the Groton Conservation Commission. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion- Giangregorio – 72 Maplewood Ave – Proposed Dock

Mrs. Giangregorio had called the office to ask what she had to do to put a dock on her property on Knops Pond. The dock would be attached to the existing stone retaining wall.

It was decided that if it is just a floating dock, they do not have to file with the Commission, just the Division of Waterways, but if they are putting in pilings, they will have to file with the Commission. They will be asked for more information.

Signs for Conservation Parcels

It was decided to order three sample signs. One each from Adobe Signs, Broadmeadow Signs and Townsend Land Trust Signs. After the Commission receives the samples, it will be decided which signmaker will be contracted to make additional signs.

7:40 PM Discussion – Change in Plan – Lakefront Trust – 16 Redskin Trail

Robert Frye was present to discuss adding "repair of the existing retaining wall" to his application DEP # 169-819 for renovations to an existing house. He submitted a drawing of the proposed work.

Vice chairman Corwin moved to accept the change in plan for 16 Redskin Trail as shown on the plan submitted by Robert Frye, dated April 23, 2002.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

7:45 PM Discussion – Groton Community School – Boston Road

Member O'Connor had reported to the office that there were no hay bales at the swing set area at the Groton

Community School project site.

Members will look at it on Wednesday.

Former member Heidi Resca has been monitoring the site.

7:48 PM Req. for Det. – Lalthrop/Heveran – 122 Old Ayer Road

Clerk Clements read the public notice to consider the Request for Determination submitted by the Town of Groton Conservation Commission to determine if the access driveway and manure piles are within 200 ft of James Brook. Scott Lathrop was not present but submitted a letter to the Commission stating that activities on his property do not come under the Wetlands Protection Act. The letter is on file in the Commission office.

Town Counsel will be sent the letter and asked for advice.

Chairman Owen moved to issue a positive determination (#4). The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

8:00 PM Public Hearing – Ken-Chris Realty – Hollis St and Mayfield Rd

Clerk Clements read the public hearing notice to consider the Notice of Intent submitted by Ken-Chris Realty Trust to improve the parking area at Hollis St and Mayfield Rd on Assessors' Lot 112//136 and 137.

Also present were June Johnson, Ray Lyons and Christopher Slade.

Dan Wolfe, from David Ross Assoc., made the presentation. The Historic Districts Commission and the Planning Board have differing opinions of how they want the parking lot designed.

Clerk Clements asked if the new paving was closer to the wetland.

Mr. Wolfe said it is, to allow more walking space next to the building. The paving will be closer to the wetland but less of it.

Vice chairman Corwin was concerned that frogs would get caught in the oil traps in the catch basins.

Mr. Wolfe drew a diagram of the basin showing that frogs could get out.

Mr. Lyons said he never saw frogs in that area. He has an office in the building.

Mr. Wolfe asked for more time to meet with the other boards.

Clerk Clements moved to continue the hearing to May 14, 2002.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

8:25 PM Discussion – Patenaude – West Main Street

Charles Patenaude and Theresa Haire, owners of 347 West Main Street, were present to address the complaint about manure being placed in the wetland on their property.

Chairman Owen asked if they had considered a manure management plan for their farm.

Mr. Patenaude said none of the manure is in the wetlands. He has three piles on three different sections of the property. All are in the floodplain.

Vice chairman Corwin requested a manure management plan.

Chairman Owen said that Mr. Patenaude should submit a sketch.

8:30 PM Still Meadow Conservation Restriction – Nashua Road at Northwoods

June Johnson from the Groton Land Foundation submitted an updated Conservation Restriction for the Commission's approval. She would like to get it to the Board of Selectmen before Town Meeting.

Attorney Johnson, representing Leon Hurd, spoke to the Commission about the land purchase. The Purchase and Sales Agreement is being rewritten. She has been working with Deborah Eliason (Town Counsel) on it.

Attorney Johnson also brought up the subject of naming the property. Mr. Hurd wants it called Hurd Conservation Land. She said she would hate for it to be a problem and would be awkward if the land was not named for Mr. Hurd.

8:40 PM Marsh Property on Gratuity Road – Change in Plan

Steve Marsden, Marsden Engineering, was present on behalf of Barry Cunningham, the new owner of the land. He was requesting a change in the culvert. He submitted a change in plan.

Vice chairman Corwin moved to accept the change in plan to install a 4 ft reinforced concrete culvert for the driveway on the former Richard Marsh property on Gratuity Road, DEP # 169-791 in place of the culvert originally planned.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

8:45 PM Discussion – Groton Lakes Association – Water Testing

John Diezemann represented the GLA. Also present was Stephen Marranzini. They are asking for a “more reasonable solution” for the testing of the chemical application..

Mr. Diezemann will meet with the Water Department and come back to the May 14, 2002 meeting.

9:00 PM Request for Determination – Stark – 22 Birchwood Rd

Clerk Clements read the public notice to consider the Req. for Det. submitted by Carolyn Stark to construct a deck at 22 Birchwood Road on Assessors’ Lot 122/36.

Stephen Stark was present. He wanted to correct the application to show that the deck is 40 feet from the lake not 20. The deck will be placed on eight sonatubes.

The members had inspected the site on Saturday.

Member Morrison moved to issue a negative determination with the condition that hay bales be accessible in case of inclement weather and crushed stone shall be placed under the deck.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

9:05 PM Discussion – Daniel McElroy – Groton Center Farms - Mayfield Drive

Member Morrison reported that there was a meeting at the McElroy property at 10:00 this morning with Patricia Huckery from NHESP. Also present on the site walk were Mr. and Mrs. McElroy, their attorney, Stanley Weinbeck, Peter Morrison, Bruce Clements, Elizabeth Montgomery, Sue Yeager and John Sticklor, NEFF, Daniel Lenthal and Elizabeth McGuire, USDA NRCS. Bennett Black, Jr., contractor, Stanley Dillis and Steven Marsden, engineers. They walked the entire site. Ms. Huckery said she and NHESP had no jurisdiction, this is a farm with a farm plan.

Chairman Owen said they should file for the access road going over the Wood property on Wood Lane. It is a new access road and is not exempt. It is not land in agriculture use by definition.

After much discussion, Clerk Clements moved that the Conservation Commission, at this time, sees no other required action on the part of the Groton Center Farm or Conservation Commission, regarding the access road on Wood Lane. The motion was seconded and passed 5 to 1. Owen voted no.

10:15 PM Discusssion – Reynolds – 27 Cypress Road

The Board of Health will be asked for information so the Commission can fill out the appropriate papers to request a search warrant from Land Court. James Reynolds, who resides at 27 Cypress Road, has denied the Commission access to view the filling activity to see if it is within 100 ft of wetlands. A meeting will be tentatively set up for May 28, 2002 with the Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, Building Inspector and Police.

Order of Conditions – Goudey – 24 Vose Avenue – 169-826

Chairman Owen moved significance, regular and special conditions. The motions were seconded and passed unanimously. The OOC is on file in the Commission office.

10:25 PM With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Montgomery, Conservation Assistant