

GROTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

January 7, 2004

Chairman Craig Auman called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Bruce Clements, Kris Corwin, Bruce Easom, Peter Morrison, and Evan Owen were present. Stacey Laudenslager arrived at 7:30 p.m. Barbara Ganem, Conservation Assistant, was also present.

B. Ganem distributed an informational packet on the EPA Watershed Initiative grant for which the Nashua River Watershed Association is applying. She read an excerpt from the abstract outlining the NRWA's goals if granted funds. The Commission has, in previous years, sent a letter of support on behalf of the NRWA, and they are asking if the Commission would also be willing this year to commit to an in-service contribution. In discussion, it was noted that several members and the Commission itself are members of the NRWA. Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by K. Corwin, it was

VOTED: to endorse the draft letter, as amended, to Carol Peterson in support of the Nashua River Watershed Association's application to the EPA for a Watershed Initiative grant.

Members expressed concern that the December 31, 2003 letter from Timothy Ervin indicates that Mr. Eliades does not intend to file for the project at 91 Culver Road. Several courses of action were discussed, including informing Town Counsel of the issue, sending a memo to the Building Commissioner to request that a Building Permit not be issued until the matter is addressed, and reviewing the case with DEP. B. Clement commented that the Town should avoid getting involved in a losing case. B. Easom suggested contacting Town Counsel would help us determine if our position is defensible. Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by K. Corwin, it was

VOTED: to request an opinion from Town Counsel on the case, review the issue with DEP staff, and request that the Building Commissioner not issue a Building Permit until the matter is resolved.

K. Corwin reported that the vernal pool on the Groton Residential Gardens property has been certified by the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program. Work in the buffer zone continues to be an issue. C. Auman noted that there is a vernal pool program running on cable station 15 at 8 p.m., Sunday through Thursday.

B. Ganem explained that she had visited Surrenden Farm on December 30, and extensive grading has occurred at the site without fulfilling several conditions in the Order. Commissioners requested that Cindy O'Connell be asked to attend the January 13th meeting to provide a timeline on when the items outlined in the Order of Conditions will be done.

According to B. Easom, the Growth Management Advisory Committee meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, so he will be available to attend their meetings. He anticipates that they will receive the charge from the Board of Selectmen at the first meeting and select a chair. In addition, the newly formed Community Preservation Advisory Committee will be holding its first meeting on Wednesday, January 14th.

The annual meeting of the Massachusetts Associate of Conservation Commissions is coming up on March 6th, and members were asked to get their workshop preferences in by the next Commission meeting.

In other matters, the Board of Health will not be meeting with the new Surrenden Farm LSP until February 9th. B. Ganem reported that there has been a violation with a well installation at 22 Redskin Trail. They put in erosion control measures and have filed with the hearing scheduled for January 27th. Members suggested that the Commission should

consider issuing a fine for this type of after-the-fact filing.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara V. Ganem
Conservation Assistant

Approved as drafted January 27, 2004