

## GROTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### Minutes

November 24, 2009

Chairman Bruce Easom called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room in Town Hall. Members Wayne Addy, Craig Auman, Ryan Lambert, and Peter Morrison were present. Members Marshall Giguere and David Pitkin were absent. Conservation Administrator Barbara Ganem was present.

B. Easom shared some documents he has prepared in conjunction with the anticipated level of funding under the Community Preservation Act for the next several years. These projections take into consideration new building in Town as well as the downturn in Registry of Deeds receipts.

Discussion on the Order of Conditions for DEP#169-1007 for Island Pond Road/Baker ensued on the topic of whether an environmental professional was necessary for this site. B. Easom pointed out this an environmentally sensitive area, and it's important to catch problems before the issues multiply. W. Addy maintained the haybales should adequately protect the area, and it is unrealistic and expensive to require a professional. C. Auman mentioned we already have a history of non-compliance on this site. Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by R. Lambert, it was

VOTED: to approve the special conditions under the Wetlands Protection Act for DEP#169-1007 for Island Pond Rd./Baker as amended.

The motion passed with W. Addy voting in the negative.

Commissioners agreed to include a condition to prohibit structures and clear cutting in the no-disturb area, but will allow limited cutting with prior approval of the Commission. Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by R. Lambert, it was

VOTED: to approve the special conditions, as amended, under the Wetlands Protection Bylaw, for DEP#169-1007 for Island Pond Rd./Baker.

The vote was unanimous.

#### 7:15 p.m. – 22 Birchwood Ave. RDA dock

Resident Steve Stark explained he has a dock made of pressure-treated (non-arsenic) wood with a mahogany deck on top. The dock is located partially over land which is a half-moon shape that was there before he purchased the property in 2000. Mr. Stark acknowledged there is an area which gets swampy where he has added soil and pebbles. Mr. Auman advised against filling in areas in the lake as this is considered an encroachment. In response to a question from reporter Pierre Comtois about whether this is an after-the-fact filing, members said this is for retroactive approval of an existing dock which will allow the homeowner to proceed with a Ch. 91 license application. Upon a motion by C. Auman, seconded by W. Addy, it was

VOTED: to issue a negative #3 Determination with the standard dock conditions.

The resident at 38 Redskin Trail has submitted a photograph to document the dock was in place in 1984; he estimates it was built in the 1970's. Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by R. Lambert, it was

VOTED: to issue a letter of acknowledgement for the dock at 38 Redskin Trail.

7:30 p.m. – 591 Main St. NOI DEP#169-1032 continuation

Engineer Jesse Johnson of David E. Ross Associates explained that the revised plans have moved the house just outside the 50 ft. buffer zone and addresses the roof runoff with trenches at the drip line. A construction sequence has been prepared for the house and garage. P. Morrison asked how the existing garage will be moved, and Mr. Johnson said if it is not viable, it is the intention of the homeowner to preserve the ability to put up something in its place. The garage currently has a brick floor which will be pulled up and the area converted to lawn. C. Auman thanked the owner for agreeing to move materials out of the wetland and the buffer zone before construction begins. Any excavated materials will be stored outside the 100-ft. buffer behind the trailer.

Members discussed whether conservation markers will be required, and it was agreed to require them along the wetland line at the edge of the lawn. Plantings will not be required. Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by C. Auman, it was

VOTED: to close the hearing for DEP#169-1032 for 591 Main St.

Members reviewed the draft Order of Conditions for this project, and upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by R. Lambert, it was

VOTED: to issue the Special Conditions for DEP#169-1032 under the Wetlands Protection Act.

The motion passed with W. Addy voting in the negative.

Members discussed the placement of conservation markers at 15 ft. intervals (approximately) for the 200 ft. wetland delineation or at the every point in which there is a change in direction. Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by R. Lambert, it was

VOTED: to approve the Special Conditions, as amended, for DEP#169-1032 under the Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

The motion passed with W. Addy voting in opposition.

7:45 p.m. – 613 Townsend Rd. NOI continuation DEP#169-1029

K. Ritchie noted additional flagging was added between wetland flags 7 and 8. A sedimentation barrier was added around the existing leaching system which is to be pumped and filled. The upgraded septic system has been approved by the Board of Health. C. Auman thanked him for

making the requested changes, and upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by R. Lambert, it was

VOTED: to close the hearing for 613 Townsend Rd. for DEP#169-1029.

Visitors Paul Funch and Berta Erickson requested time on the Commission agenda to discuss naming a trail after Bruce Clements who contributed so much while he resided in Town. It would be on the Sorhaug Woods Williams Barn property to honor his involvement with the Williams Barn. B. Easom GPS'd the existing main trail, and it is intended to have a sign designating it as the 'Bruce Wyatt Clements Trail'. Mr. Funch and Ms. Erickson asked the Commission to consider authorizing this designation. Members who had known Mr. Clements thought this would be a very appropriate recognition of his years of service to the Town. It is estimated the trail is about  $\frac{3}{4}$ 's of a mile in length. The signage should be highly visible as there are a lot of activities on the property, and his family should have a say in what is appropriate. Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by R. Lambert, it was

VOTED: to approve the naming of the main Sorhaug Woods Williams Barn trail the 'Bruce Wyatt Clements Trail' subject to the selection of an appropriate sign.

Attorney Ray Lyons has proposed a contingency be included in the Purchase & Sales Agreement for the alternate Red Line Connector. It essentially provides them an out to not sell the parcel to the Town. If the Planning Board does not allow them to add another lot from Bryanwood Lane, they could decide to back out of the deal. W. Addy asked if we could just buy the property once things are resolved. P. Morrison did not think it affects anything. B. Easom said we are interested in an access corridor, and he was neither supportive nor against the proposal for two house lots.

8:00 p.m. – 14 Hayden Road NOI continuation DEP#169-1030

Engineer Kevin Ritchie explained he has designed a recharge trench along the side of the house to receive the discharge from the sump pump. R. Lambert asked if the existing sump drain was to be removed. B. Easom said "It would be better to remove it." W. Addy asked whether it has been determined if there is an oil tank in the basement. Mr. Ritchie was uncertain but stated there are living quarters in the basement. Discussion followed on whether this could present a hazard to the wetlands, but members thought without an engineered solution, it really could not be addressed. Upon a motion by C. Auman, seconded by R. Lambert, it was

VOTED: to close the hearing for DEP#169-1030 for 14 Hayden Rd.

K. Ritchie said he was working on a change in the size of a septic tank (900 to 1500 gallons) for 14 Rustic Trail. He estimated the distance is about 50 ft. from the lake and the work will take about 2 days. No tree cutting is involved, and the area where the tank will be installed is previously disturbed. The Board of Health did not require a plan for the 23-year old leaching field. There is an internal pump, and there will be no external line changes. The Commission agreed to the filing of a Request for Determination of Applicability with the caveat that a site visit could change their opinion.

8:15 p.m. - 58 Old Lantern Lane NOI continuation DEP#169-1031

Due to some changes in the location for the well and septic system required by the MESA review, the applicant has requested a continuation. Upon a motion by R. Lambert, seconded by W. Addy, it was

VOTED: to continue the hearing to December 22, 2009.

In discussion on the Conservation (771) budget for FY'11, members commented the camera seems to be on its last legs, and it is a great asset to the Commission's work. M. Giguere has researched a camera/GPS unit at a cost of \$1800 which is a significant cost reduction from the previously requested \$5000. The Water Safety (699) budget is \$2500 which would cover management expenses (contract labor for the Park Ranger position and portapotties) but not operations such as lifeguards and swimming lessons. The contract with the YMCA was never signed off for waterfront management, and the public relations/fundraising effort was intensive.

In reviewing the Conservation Plan submitted by David Elliot for 35 Common St., members recommended he be required to file a Notice of Intent because the plan shows haying in the wetlands.

It is necessary to make a 2-page summary pre-submittal for applications for this year's Community Preservation funding. The payout each year is re-filled, but is tied to revenue taken in. It is likely we will have a state match of 35%. The Groton Community Preservation Committee has set aside 10% each year for recreation, but this is not required by the state. The 'Field of Dreams' project was approved for \$150,000 out of this bucket. P. Morrison felt that the amount the Commission requests for the Conservation Fund is not as important as consistently making the request. Commissioners have previously indicated the intention of maintaining between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000 in the Conservation Fund. It is likely we will get about \$90,000 reimbursed through the LAND grant program for the \$150,000 Fuccillo purchase so we are down \$60,000.

P. Morrison suggested asking for \$30,000. B. Easom explained that \$500,000 was carried forward in past years, but this will not be done in the future. In addition, a housing coordinator has recently been hired. In general the CPA match is down. The Commission is also looking at several other land purchases in the near future. One point in our favor is we have generally declined to buy a property without matching funds. Some communities are looking to reduce their 3% CPC contribution. There are currently 142 CPC communities, and two more are on the ballot this year. Senate Bill 90 would set the state minimum match at 75%, and this may be done by increasing Registry fees. B. Ganem will prepare the summary application for \$30,000 by the December 1 deadline.

Regarding the trail planned off Paugus Trail, Commissioners agreed that walking through a portion of the wetland is okay unless we find it is becoming a problem, and it's clear a bridge is necessary. B. Easom said he would go ahead and cut the trail.

Joachim Preiss, Chairman of the Trails Committee, has requested the no-motorized vehicles signs for several conservation areas. They would be posted at the trail entrances where ATV use has been reported. Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by R. Lambert, it was

VOTED: to authorize Mr. Preiss to install signs at Kailey's Way/Groton Hills, Williams Barn Sorhaug Woods, and the Throne.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara V. Ganem  
Conservation Administrator

**Approved as drafted 1/12/10.**