

GROTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

November 27, 2012

Chairman Craig Auman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room in Town Hall. Members Bruce Easom, Peter Morrison, and John Smigelski were present. Marshall Giguere, Nadia Madden, and Rena Swezey were absent. Conservation Administrator Barbara Ganem was present.

Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by J. Smigelski, it was

VOTED: to approve the minutes of November 13, 2012 as drafted.

The motion was approved unanimously.

It was noted there will be a Special Town Meeting held on Saturday, January 26, 2013. The warrant closes on December 3, 2012.

A follow-up walk on the proposed forestry work at Baddacook Field is scheduled for December 1, 2012 at 9 a.m. Members requested that this be posted on the Town web site.

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by B. Easom, it was

VOTED: to issue an amended Order of Conditions for Lot A-2 Culver Rd. for DEP#169-886 under the Wetlands Protection Act.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by B. Easom, it was

VOTED: to issue an amended Order of Conditions for Lot A-2 Culver Rd. for DEP#169-886 under the Wetlands Protection Bylaw

The first round of FY' 14 budget discussions will occur in December. Members reviewed the draft budgets for Conservation and for Water Safety and agreed they were satisfactory.

7:15 p.m. – Vaillancourt/1081 Lowell Rd. Request for Determination of Applicability
Homeowner John Vaillancourt explained they had cut trees because of the fire danger. Some of the tall pines were over 50 years old, and they wanted a change of view and to let in some sunshine. He estimated 7 trees were near the brook. Mrs. Vaillancourt added they had no idea the brook constituted a wetland, and they had gone to the Highway Department and Police Department both of whom informed them no permit was required. She also mentioned their insurance company encouraged them to remove trees near the house. Members explained that work within 100 feet of wetlands will more than likely require a permit.

Member Morrison asked how the area will be cleaned up. Mr. Vaillancourt said the logger left the hardwood to be used as firewood. He also indicated he would be removing the rebar and other metal parts. B. Easom questioned whether the area would be de-stumped, and Mr. Vaillancourt replied that he would leave it as is. He agreed to consider the planting of highbush blueberries, and Mrs. Vaillancourt commented that rhododendron grow well on the site. Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by P. Morrison, it was

VOTED: to issue a negative #3 Determination in which 1) there shall be no stump removal; 2) ten highbush blueberries shall be planted along the 30-ft. buffer zone; 3) metal debris shall be removed from the 100-ft. buffer zone to wetlands; and 4) no stump grinding.

The vote was unanimous. B. Ganem offered to come out to the site to help ascertain the 30-foot buffer zone at the time of planting.

7:30 p.m. – Eckel/25 Ridgewood Ave. Request for Determination of Applicability

Alexander Eckel said they had purchased the house in August and were concerned about the safety and potential for erosion from the existing walkway and retaining walls. They began the work not knowing of the need to file for replacement. They would also like to replace an existing steep slope with a staircase between the house and the gazebo. Eventually they will probably replace the retaining wall at the shore line under a separate proposal. Member Easom asked if they had covered the stockpile of soil, and Mr. Eckel affirmed that he had. Commissioners agreed that a staircase would help the situation. Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by P. Morrison, it was

VOTED: to issue a negative #3 Determination in which haybales and a silt fence (with the skirt buried) are installed between the work area and the lake.

Chairman Auman cautioned that any restoration of the bank should not result in expansion into the lake. In general the Commission recommends natural stone and the planting of native plants along with riprap to stabilize the shore line. This type of work is more conducive to providing wildlife habitat. B. Ganem provided several flyers and brochures to Mr. Eckel on natural plantings to use within the 100 ft. buffer zone to the lake.

Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by P. Morrison, it was

VOTED: to appoint David Pitkin as an Associate Member of the Conservation Commission.

Steward Andrew Davis reports that the fall cleanup at Sargisson Beach went well with two trailers of leaves and pine needles removed from the beach on Nov. 17th. Eagle Scout Danny Horrigan is about half-way through his erosion control project at the Beach. Members agreed, in principle, to pay for supplies used for the project which were estimated to be between \$60 and \$100. GELD Director Kevin Kelly said that GELD has furnished wood chips for the project.

7:45 p.m. - Jackson/153 Main St. Notice of Intent Invasives Remediation Plan continuation

Attorney Bob Collins explained the Commission has previously reviewed the plan, dated August 24, 2012, to control invasive plants on the Jackson property adjacent to the proposed GELD facility. The new filing was done because this is a separately owned property. Mr. Collins noted he has included a copy of the license agreement with the Jacksons in the Notice of Intent filing. Allison Jackson was present and acknowledged she and her husband agreed to the work on their land.

DEP has not yet assigned a number for this project, so the hearing cannot be closed. An older Notice of Intent form was submitted originally, and this has since been updated. Part of the treatment for the invasives will include the spraying of invasives, and members agreed this appears to be the only thing that works with certain plants. C. Auman asked about the follow up monitoring and reporting, and Mr. Collins responded this would be done for a 5-yr. period. He thought the re-planting would be the same as that proposed for the GELD property and pointed out the license includes finish grading and seeding. The seeding would be with a conservation mix, and he acknowledged it can't be left bare. With the applicant's concurrence and upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by P. Morrison, it was

VOTED: to continue the hearing to December 11, 2012.

The vote was unanimous.

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by B. Easom, it was

VOTED: to accept the deed as drafted by Bob Collins for the 2±acre Iovino parcel adjacent to 583 Lowell Rd.

The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Collins inquired about the GELD Nate Nutting solar array filing, and B. Ganem indicated it had not yet come in, but it is on the Commission's agenda for December 11th with a site walk to precede it on December 8th.

8:00 p.m. – Request for amendment to DEP#169-1073 for Groton Electric Light Department facility under the Wetlands Protection Act

Attorney Collins said this is more or less a housekeeping item to bring the Order of Conditions issued under the Act consistent with that issued under the Bylaw. The plans were changed under the Bylaw to provide additional landscaping, invasives restoration on the Jackson property, and to firm up mitigation measures. The changes are outlined in his letter of November 27, 2012. With no further questions from Commissioners and upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by B. Easom, it was

VOTED: to close the hearing for amendment to GELD DEP#169-1073.

The vote was unanimous.

Member Smigelski asked the origin of the Commission's boilerplate condition that recommends the use of calcium chloride as an alternative to the application of sodium chloride to manage snow and icy conditions on driveways; B. Ganem will look into the basis for the recommendation.

B. Easom reported there were 5 CPC applications, but two have been withdrawn. The Conservation Commission summary was well received. The other major application is from the Parks Commission for funding to build recreational fields.

Mr. Smigelski mentioned he had spoken to John Maynard, whose property abuts Surrenden Farm, and he still has concerns about the management of the triangle of land that is adjacent to his property. He suggested talking to Roy MacGregor, the farmer who hays the field. Mr. Maynard has offered to assist with trimming the hedgerows at Surrenden. J. Smigelski noted that this is a very time consuming task that involves a lot of work with a chainsaw. He estimated that there is a loss of field edge of 1½ ft. each year unless the brush is regularly cut back. Commissioners asked to review the license with Mr. MacGregor.

B. Easom reported work on the B & M trail easement area has gone very well. He used a GPS to determine where the clearing should occur, and the group met with Chris Shattuck and Peter Cunningham at the site to review the trail layout. They were able to locate two pins on the ground and on the map to use as reference points. Member Easom noted the Shays, abutters to the B & M easement, have a shed that is hanging over the conservation area about 6 in., and they are pulling water out of the stream for agricultural purposes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Notes by Barbara V. Ganem
Conservation Administrator

Approved as drafted 12/11/12.

EXHIBITS

Document	Source	Date
Minutes	Conservation Commission	11/13/12
Amended Order of Conditions DEP#169-886	Eliades/Culver Rd.	Amendment request filed 10/31/12
Request for Determination of Applicability	Vaillancourt/1081 Lowell Rd.	Filed 11/6/12
Request for Determination of Applicability	Eckel/25 Ridgewood Ave.	Filed 11/13/12
DEP#169-_____	Jackson/153 Main St.	Filed 9/13/12
Amended Order of Conditions DEP#169-1073	GELD/23 Station Ave.	Filed 10/4/12