

## GROTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### Minutes

April 23, 2013

Chairman Craig Auman called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Middle School. Members Bruce Easom, Marshall Giguere, John Smigelski, and Rena Swezey were present. Members Nadia Madden and Peter Morrison were absent. Conservation Administrator Barbara Ganem was present.

Upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by R. Swezey, it was

VOTED: to approve the minutes (Open Session) of April 9, 2013 as drafted.

Upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by B. Easom, it was

VOTED: to approve and issue Special Conditions, as revised, under the Wetlands Protection Act for 8 Hazelwood Ave., DEP#169-1094.

Upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by R. Swezey, it was

VOTED: to approve and issue Special Conditions, as drafted, under the Groton Wetlands Protection Bylaw for 8 Hazelwood Ave., DEP#169-1094.

Upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by J. Smigelski, it was

VOTED: to approve and issue Special Conditions, as revised, under the Wetlands Protection Act for weed harvesting in Baddacook Pond, DEP#169-1093.

Upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by B. Easom, it was

VOTED: to approve and issue Special Conditions, as revised, under the Groton Wetlands Protection Bylaw for weed harvesting in Baddacook Pond, DEP#169-1093.

The revised Conservation Restriction proposed for the Baddacook Field conservation area was previously emailed to members with Exhibits A – D attached. It includes language allowing agricultural activities such as a well, shelters, and fencing. Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by M. Giguere, it was

VOTED: to recommend acceptance by the Board of Selectmen.

To follow up on the April 20, 2013 site visit, M. Giguere reported there is some encroachment of the Hawtree Way trail onto adjacent property at 34 Raddin Rd. The resident used conservation land to access the back of his property to repair his well, but clearly a portion of the trail lies on his land. Member Giguere explained he and B. Easom found the bound for the back corner of

Mr. Geagan's property as well as the two bounds marking the adjacent Marsh property. B. Easom noted there were bare soils left over from the well operation. He and M. Giguere marked a possible trail re-route within the conservation land strip which seemed acceptable to Mr. Geagan at the site. The trail markers on his property were also moved. Mr. Easom and Mr. Giguere would like to know if this re-routing is acceptable to the Commission. Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by R. Swezey, it was

VOTED: to authorize the Trails Committee to re-route the trail on Hawtree Way as marked by M. Giguere and B. Easom.

B. Easom commented the area where there is siltation is fairly flat and suggested that a letter go to Mr. Geagan asking that, in the future, he request permission to access the back of his property via conservation land and that sediment control measures be installed.

Paul Funch of the Trails Committee has pointed out that there have been similar problems, such as Deerhaven and Wharton Row, where old trails pre-existed a subdivision but then were found subsequently to be on private property. C. Auman suggested working with Michelle Collette to be sure the Commission has an opportunity to walk trails to be sure they are properly located.

B. Easom mentioned the Hindu temple proposed for the Mattbob property is before the Planning Board for pre-submission review on April 25.

Under land management issues, Attorney Robert Collins has copied the Commission on a letter he sent to the Selectmen asking them to reconsider The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts (TABCOM) Conservation Restriction off Whitaker Lane. B. Ganem reported ownership has changed on the second house along the Town Forest trail to Ames Meadow, but she was uncertain how this would affect negotiations with the residents where the trail encroaches.

Member Easom reported he had discussed the potential Conservation Restriction on the Baddacook Pond property with Rick Muehlke, a member of the Groton Conservation Trust. They would like a letter describing what is involved and whether there would be any money to do the monitoring or whether this can be done by another entity. The letter should also detail what is allowed and what is not allowed under the Community Preservation Act. B. Ganem mentioned it would generally be the same as is proposed under the Walker-Cox Conservation Restriction. R. Swezey asked if a survey is necessary, and Ms. Ganem said one had already been prepared for the Baddacook Pond property. M. Giguere and N. Madden worked on the baseline documentation report and land management plan for Baddacook Pond, both of which provide useful photographs and information about the property. C. Auman liked the idea of having a Conservation Restriction as this is a good belts and suspenders approach to assuring the land remains protected. Members acknowledged monitoring is important, and B. Easom confirmed CPA funds can be used for this purpose. M. Giguere expressed concern about the Town attaching funds for the holder of a Conservation Restriction. C. Auman wished to see the letter before it goes out to the Groton Conservation Trust. R. Swezey mentioned she is working with the Trust to determine the assessed values of properties at the time they were acquired.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Notes taken by B. Ganem  
Conservation Administrator

**Approved as drafted 5/14/13.**

EXHIBITS

Document	Source	Date
Minutes	Conservation Commission	4/9/13
DEP#169-1094	Comeau/8 Hazelwood Ave.	Filed 3/1/13
DEP#169-1093	Baddacook Pond weed harvesting	Filed 2/26/13
Baddacook Field Conservation Restriction	Conservation Commission	4/16/13