

GROTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

Friday, November 15, 2013

With a quorum present Vice Chairman John Smigelski called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. Rena Swezey, Bruce Easom, and Marshall Giguere were present. Craig Auman arrived at 4:45 p.m., and Peter Morrison arrived at 4:46 p.m. Conservation Administrator Barbara Ganem was also present.

Visitors: Sargisson Beach Committee Chairman Andrew Davis

Sargisson Beach restoration project – DEP#169-1011

B. Ganem reported DEP has assigned a number for the NOI. She also talked with Lauren Glorioso at the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program who indicated there is no issue with Natural Heritage for this project. Upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by B. Easom, it was

VOTED: to close the hearing for DEP#169-1011.

The vote was unanimous.

Having previously discussed the draft conditions, upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by B. Easom, it was

VOTED: to issue an Order of Conditions for DEP#169-1011 under the Wetlands Protection Act.

The vote was unanimous.

J. Smigelski asked Commissioners' opinions on the Curry property (73 Fairway Drive) proposed for sale to Lawrence Academy. The property is classified under Ch. 61, and the Town has the right of first refusal to purchase it when it goes on the market. M. Giguere observed there are no connections with other protected conservation lands and no rare species identified on site. J. Smigelski said the property is almost landlocked with the exception of the driveway to the residence. R. Swezey noted the asking price, \$1.05 million, is quite steep. Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by J. Smigelski, it was

VOTED: to recommend the Town not exercise its right of first refusal.

J. Smigelski reported he had been out to the Baddacook Field property with the demolition contractor Larry Hurley. Instead of there being two structures, there are three which are to be removed. He said the cleanup is going very well, but he suggested the Commission consider making an amendment to the contract awarded to Mr. Hurley. B. Easom thought this was fine as long as the amount is still under \$5000.

(C. Auman arrived at 4:45 p.m.) Upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by B. Easom, it was

VOTED: to add an additional amount of \$750 to the contract payment to Larry Hurley for the camp demolition at Baddacook Field.

The vote was unanimous.

Andrew Davis reported the Sargisson Beach Committee is working on its budget for a meeting coming up next Tuesday. The Town's insurance company has identified several dead trees along walkways and the beach which should be removed. Because there are a number of safety supplies which will have to come out of the \$15,000 allocated for the May-June 2014 period, Mr. Davis asked if the Commission was willing to cover this expense.

(P. Morrison arrived at 4:46 p.m.)

A. Davis further explained he thought the trees, which are generally small, could be cut with a chain saw by John Giger and him, but they would need funding for a chipper on site to dispose of the branches. He said the safety supplies include such items as a defibrillator and oxygen. They will also come before the Commission again for signage. R. Swezey said there is specific language requested by the insurance company which would allow free access to the beach area in order to limit the Town's liability. B. Easom asked if an estimate could be provided and indicated he had no problem with cutting dead trees. Mead landscaping is working with GELD for the winter, but there are probably other vendors available such as Myette.

B. Easom talked with the Director of the Lowell YMCA, Ray Adams, who says they did not maintain attendance records during the time they contracted with the Town for lifeguarding. His recollection, however, is that the Beach was generally sparsely attended with the exception of when campers from the Twomey Center arrived. He suggested two lifeguards were probably adequate staffing. Carol Wright, who runs the swim program at the Groton Pool & Golf Center, will direct lifeguarding at Sargisson Beach. A. Davis said the Beach will be closed Monday and Tuesday, but will operate 11 – 5 Wednesday through Friday, and 11 to 7 on weekends. Carol would manage the hiring, appointing, and hours for the lifeguarding.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Notes taken by

Barbara V. Ganem
Conservation Administrator

Approved as drafted 11/26/2013