

GROTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Location: Town Hall, 2nd Floor

Members Present: John Smigelski (Chair), Peter Morrison (Vice Chair), Olin Lathrop (Clerk), Susan Black, Bruce Easom, Eileen McHugh, Marshall Giguere

Others Present: Takashi Tada (Conservation Administrator)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Smigelski.

General Business:

Invoices: A Groton Herald legal notice bill for \$46.00 and an MACC Conference registration fee (O. Lathrop) for \$115.00 were paid.

Upon a motion made by E. McHugh, seconded by S. Black, it was

Voted: to approve minutes from 9/27/16. The vote was six in favor and one abstention.

Land Acquisition- Reedy Meadow Estates revised Deed and Declaration of Restriction.

Land Management- Surrenden Farm Ag. License will be renewed for haying by R. Tolles for another year.

Committee Updates-

CPC- B. Easom said there was a public hearing last night where the CPC acknowledged good stewardship of funds.

ERSWAC- The Committee met last week and approved both Longley Road and Groton Community School permits.

GPAC- M. Giguere and J. Smigelski gave updates, noting that Baddacook Pond is before the CPC to revisit the chemicals.

Invasive Species- O. Lathrop said he passed the applicator test, noting that there is an issue regarding liability.

Williams Barn- O. Lathrop (Trails Committee) said he is trying to get a trail map posted. B. Easom said the Williams Barn Committee is in its own world. O. Lathrop said they are opposed for "historic reasons". T. Tada said he would send a copy of the MOU to O. Lathrop.

7:15 p.m. – Public Hearing, RDA, Septic System Repair, 202 Pepperell Rd. (Doyle).

Applicant: Jonathan Markey of Markey & Rubin

J. Markey said the septic system has failed and cannot be fixed. He said the old system will be left in place and the new system will be constructed in the old “reserve” area. He said the old tank would be limited by plumbing, noting other constraints such as the neighbor’s well, his client’s swimming pool and the water line. He said there would be no grading changes for the tanks and the existing yard will be used.

S. Black asked about the existing leach area. J. Markey said it is in the middle of the yard, noting that the new leach field will be in the depression near the road and there are excellent gravel soils.

E. McHugh asked about the grading for the new leach area. J. Markey said it will be level with the existing lawn and the existing rock wall will be raised by about two feet. She asked whether the wetlands are flagged. He said they were not but the culvert was located with instruments. He said there was no other design alternative anyway.

M. Giguere said there are currently no structures within 50 feet of the wetlands. J. Markey said there is no change in that proposed.

B. Easom said he wants it noted that he is not accepting the delineation, if approved.

O. Lathrop said they will stipulate that no work is done within 50 feet of the wetlands.

Upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by S. Black, it was

VOTED: to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability (# 3) for the proposed septic system repairs at 202 Pepperell Rd. (Doyle), subject to the following conditions:

- 1) No work will be done within 50 feet of the approximate wetland boundary, per LOW.
- 2) This is not a validation.
- 3) The old septic tank shall be crushed and filled in place.

The vote was unanimous.

7:35 p.m. – Public Hearing: NOI, Aquatic Weed Management, 2 Farmers Row (MacDonald)

Applicant: Gary Shephard

G. Shephard said he did dredging, cleaning and aeration under the old permit, noting that this will use the same plan. He said he would like to get permission to apply herbicides, if needed.

B. Easom said they would have a special condition for pre-treatment notification.

O. Lathrop said treatment should occur when the water is not spilling over the dam. G. Shephard said that is okay because he doesn’t want to dilute the treatment anyway.

G. Shephard said green cards have been provided.

M. Giguere asked whether any consideration has been given to mitigating animal waste inputs such as a swale or a trench. G. Shephard said there has not but he will advise the owner to consider it. J. Smigelski said geese are the problem since the owner only has two horses.

Upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by E. McHugh, it was

VOTED: to continue the hearing to 3/14/17, to await a file number and comments from MassDEP.

The vote was unanimous.

Return to General Business:

Land Management-Surrenden Farms (forestry):

- Pat Huckery?
- NHESP?
- Public Outreach
- Clarify timeline with M. Barry, Bay State Forestry

7 Baby Beach Road, Request for Extension Permit, Retaining Walls, MassDEP#169-1077.

M. Giguere asked whether the walls are greater than four feet, and if so, whether a building permit would be required.

P. Morrison said it is the Commission's common practice to extend permits.

M. Giguere said that since they are asking for a new plan, a new NOI should be required.

Upon a motion made by P. Morrison, seconded by E. McHugh, it was

Voted: to entend the Order of Conditions. The vote was four in favor and three against (O. Lathrop, M. Giguere, B. Eason).

Pacer Way, Autumn Olive , (O. Lathrop)

J. Smigelski and S. Black both said the Autumn Olive cannot just be mowed away.

R. Tolles said he hasn't/can't mow it.

A site was suggested for 3/11/17.

Upon a motion made by P. Morrison and seconded by S. Black, it was

VOTED: to adjourn at 8:22 PM.

The vote was unanimous.

Notes taken by Takashi Tada
Conservation Administrator

Exhibits on file at Conservation Commission Office:

- 1.