

GROTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

Location: Town Hall, 2nd Floor

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

Members Absent: Susan Black, Marshall Giguere

Others Present: Takashi Tada (Conservation Administrator)

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

General Business:

P. Morrison made a motion to approve a Certificate of Compliance for 211 Whiley Road MassDEP#169-1130. E. McHugh seconded and the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Lake Massapoag Rod and Gun Club: P. Morrison made a motion to extend MassDEP #179-969 permit for pond drawdown for three years. The motion was seconded by E. McHugh and passed unanimously (5-0). P. Morrison made a motion to extend MassDEP#179-1045 permit for weed harvesting for three years. The motion was seconded by E. McHugh and passed unanimously (5-0).

A tentative meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 21 at 6 p.m. A list of “do not ask” questions will be obtained from the Human Resources Coordinator.

Committee Updates:

B. Easom had a meeting with the Agricultural Commission to discuss interest in farming in Baddacook Field.

E. McHugh said the ERSWAC would meet to discuss violations at 255 Pepperell Road.

B. Easom said there was a CPC project kickoff last night.

7:15 p.m. – Public Hearing: RDA Deck Replacement, 16 Autumn Leaf Drive
Owner/Applicant: Eric Rose

E. Rose said the deck replacement would be in the existing lawn, noting that there will be one new sonotube and no heavy equipment will be used.

P. Morrison asked about rocks under the existing deck as well as in the expansion area. E. Rose said there were rocks under the existing and in place in the expansion area.

E. McHugh asked about the location of the dumpster. E. Rose said the dumpster would be in the driveway.

B. Easom asked whether there were any “in perpetuity” requirements from the Order of Conditions for the house. He said he would like new crushed stone to mitigate the expansion, albeit further from the wetlands.

E. Rose said most roof runoff is guttered.

B. Easom said he would like the gutters to recharge into the stone trench.

O. Lathrop said he did not see any erosion with the existing gutters, although he said he noticed some gullyng. He said he agreed with Member Easom that the gutters should infiltrate.

M. Collette noted that it is an older permit.

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by O. Lathrop, it was

VOTED: to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability (#3) for the proposed deck replacement at 16 Autumn Leaf Drive (Rose) with the following conditions:

- 1) Materials stored in front of the house;
- 2) Recharge the downspouts on the west side;
- 3) Crushed stone will be placed under the deck;
- 4) Reference any “in perpetuity” conditions from the Order of Conditions.

The vote was unanimous.

7:30 p.m. – Public Meeting: Notice of Intent, Barn Construction, 109 Chicopee Row (Mass DEP#169-1155)

Owner/Applicant: Brandan Lowry

Rep: Stan Dillis

The applicant submitted a written request to continue the hearing to 6/27/17.

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

VOTED: to continue the hearing to 6/27/17. The vote was unanimous (5-0).

Taking up General Business – Land Acquisition Discussion: Groton Conservation Trust

Rep: Ted Lapres, Mark Gerath

T. Lapres said the 44-acre Silvestro parcel is not on the market yet. He said there has been an ecological assessment by David Black, noting that this is a high importance parcel. He said that the map shows vernal pools and nearby conservation land.

The Groton Conservation Trust is interested in forming an alliance with the Town, abutters and maybe the New England Forestry Foundation. The GCT wants to be respectful of the landowner and the Trust has not reached out yet.

O. Lathrop suggesting discussing this in executive session.

E. McHugh asked whether the history of the land was known.

T. Lapres said he is not very familiar with it.

M. Collette said the Box's house was carved out as an ANR.

B. Easom asked what the owner's time frame was.

T. Lapres said likely sooner than later.

Taking up General Business – Land Management Discussion: T. Tada

Baddacook Field- O. Lathrop is now licensed and equipped to conduct herbicide applications.

The field should be targeted with triclopyr and surfactant. B. Easom will look into abutter notifications.

Pacer Way: O. Lathrop suggested a joint site walk with the Conservation Commission and the Invasive Species Committee.

Upon a motion made by P. Morrison and seconded by B. Easom a vote was taken to have a joint site walk on 6/25/17. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

7:45 p.m. – Discussion: Conservation on Senior Center Building and Restriction on GEMS, Inc. parcel (former Squannacook Sportsmans Club)

Owner/Applicant: GEMS, Inc.

Rep: Peter Cunningham, Michelle Collette

The Town is interested in using parts of the GEMS land for their uses associated with a proposed Senior Center. There is currently a Conservation Restriction (CR) held by the Commission on this land.

P. Cunningham said GEMS is interested in offloading the parcel to the Town.

There is an existing CR and discussion ensued regarding whether it should be extinguished or not.

M. Collette said there is a prohibition on building for human habitation or industrial use (odd?). She said the current Senior Center has a very nice garden set up which could be lost. She said there could be trail access, outdoor programs, a picnic area, etc., and maybe parking.

P. Cunningham said GEMS could continue to train for ice rescues.

B. Easom suggested that it would be a conflict if the Town owns the parcel and holds the CR and that another entity should hold the CR.

M. Collette said it is not a Ch. 184 (Article 77) CR.

P. Cunningham said he contacted the drafting attorney.

P. Morrison said parking might be the only real problem.

O. Lathrop suggested, as a possible solution, that the back of the Senior Center lot, from the stream west, could be transferred to the Commission and kept in a natural condition. He said it is not buildable but has a high conservation value.

B. Easom said there is more to discuss and investigate further.

8:05 p.m. – Discussion: Vegetation Management, 128 Main St. (Groton Inn), MassDEP #169-1109- “Phase 2”, more invasives removal

Rep: Brian Butler, John Amaral

Site Walk: Sat. 6/24/17 @ 9:45 AM.

The first phase was started last week, with the retention of native patches of goldenrod and grasses. Permission was requested to complete the swath in 2/3 of the first area.

P. Morrison said he likes the idea of getting rid of the junk. E. McHugh agreed.

B. Easom said he also likes the idea and asked whether it would be another minor change.

O. Lathrop agreed that it was a good idea.

J. Amaral said they would be placing educational placards behind the buildings.

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

VOTED: to accept as minor change the invasives removal at 128 Main St. (Groton Inn), MassDEP #169-1109. The vote was unanimous (5-0).

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

VOTED: to adjourn the meeting and move to Executive Session at 8:20 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Notes taken by Takashi Tada
Conservation Administrator

Exhibits on file at Conservation Commission Office:

1. RDA, 16 Autumn Leaf Drive
2. NOI, 109 Chicopee Row, MassDEP #169-1155
3. Conservation Restriction, former Squannacook Sportsmans Club parcel
4. Vegetation Management Proposal, Groton Inn, 128 Main Street, MassDEP #169-1109
5. COC, 211 Whiley Road, MassDEP #169-1130
6. OOC, Pond Drawdown, Lake Massapoag Rod & Gun Club, MassDEP #169-969
7. OOC, Weed Harvesting, Lake Massapoag Rod & Gun Club, MassDEP #169-1045

Approved on September 12, 2017.