

GROTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

Location: Town Hall, 2nd Floor

Members Present: John Smigelski (Chair), Olin Lathrop (Clerk), Susan Black, Bruce Easom, Eileen McHugh, Marshall Giguere; Not Present: Peter Morrison (Vice Chair)

Others Present: Takashi Tada (Conservation Administrator)

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

Starting with General Business, minutes from 6/27/17 were unanimously approved (6-0).

OOB – 25 Ross Rd. 169-1156

WPA was approved unanimously (6-0)

-strike 34,49

Bylaw approved unanimously (6-0)

Invoice – MACC was signed

7:15 p.m. – Public Hearing: NOI (con't), 109 Chicopee Row

Owner/Applicant:

Rep: Stan Dillis (Ducharme & Dillis Civil Design Group)

Stan Dillis presented a revised plan under Ch. 215 §7 – standard for “altered” lots. The barn will be closer to the house and entirely within the lawn. 3,500 sq. ft. of invasive species (bittersweet and burning bush) will be removed and replanted. 40% of the barn will be outside of BZ.

M. Giguere asked about long term management. S. Dillis said his client is willing to spend money to replant as well as maintenance.

B. Easom asked whether any portions of the site would be posted as off limits. S. Dillis said he would expect some sort of condition for such.

O. Lathrop said he appreciates the efforts to redesign/mitigate but this is not a good trade off for a permanent structure.

J. Smigelski said he is okay with the project, noting that it has always been a yard and the applicant is trying to improve the lot.

S. Black said the current situation is not good, noting that the property abuts Conservation Commission property and is a seed source for spreading invasives.

S. Dillis said he would like to continue with Member Morrison is present.

A motion was made to continue the hearing to August 8, which was approved 5 to 0.

8:22 p.m. – Discussion: 54 Ridgewood Ave.

Owner: Glenn Kinnear

G. Kinnear is proposing to add stairs the landing below the existing walls and shed on the Lost Lake side of the property and on the same side, the wall will be enhanced with blocks. A second shed will be added on the Knops Pond side and parking will be increased. Of note: a previously permitted boathouse was never constructed. There are/will be docks on each side.

Two plans based on GPR Engineering site plans were presented. A new Ch. 91 dock license is required.

M. Giguere asked about a previous Order of Conditions.

G. Kinnear said he has one for the entire dwelling, wells and the septic system, noting that he moved in five years ago.

B. Easom said the walkways are generally good and much better than the makeshift walkways that lead to erosion. He said he does not like the additional structures (sheds).

O. Lathrop said he agreed, noting that the new structures are the issue, partly because existing vegetation is being replaced with those structures.

8:45 p.m. –Discussion: Surrenden Farms

The agricultural license was discussed. O. Lathrop asked why the license does not run from January 1 to December 31. A payment schedule for October 31 was discussed.

Perimeter trail mowing was added to the schedule. Simplifying the pesticides used was discussed, as was the length of the contract. Mark Haddad has suggested a five year contract.

A suggestion was made to add a map and parcel ID.

B. Easom asked about the 11 acre Parcel 220-33.2 (?).

J. Smigelski said it is owned by the Selectmen and noted there is no topsoil on it.

Discussion: Baddacook Field

S. Black said the swallowwort is in full bloom.

There will be a site walk at 10:00 on Saturday July 15, 2017. T. Tada will notify neighbors via email and place signs.

Committee Updates: Eliades

O. Lathrop made a motion (seconded by B. Easom) to give the Invasive Species Committee permission to cut and paint (apply herbicide) Autumn Olive on the Eliades property. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

There will be a need to do outreach regarding Phragmites work in September.

CPC

The CPC would like permission to erect CPA signs at Surrenden Farm.

O. Lathrop made a motion (seconded by E. McHugh) to authorize a CPA sign to be attached to the kiosk. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

J. Smigelski will assist with the design.

O. Lathrop asked whether there was any interest in a managed American Chestnut stand.

Of note: there are two mature trees in Groton.

E. McHugh departed.

8:45 p.m. O. Lathrop made a motion (seconded by S. Black) to go into Executive Session. The motion, via roll call vote, passed unanimously (5-0).

Notes taken by Takashi Tada
Conservation Administrator