



## TOWN OF GROTON

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## WETLANDS BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

David Black, Chair  
Steven Webber, Vice Chair  
Marshall Giguere, Secretary  
Peter Cunningham  
Robert Pine  
Scott Wilson  
Alexander Woodle

Meeting Date: November 20, 2013  
Location: Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room, 173 Main Street, Groton, MA 01450  
Members: David Black, Scott Wilson, Marshall Giguere, Robert Pine, Alexander Woodle, Peter Cunningham  
Others: Art Prest, Takashi Tada, Michelle Collette, Craig Auman  
Handouts: Draft minutes from October 30, 2013, Art Prest Bylaw Revisions dated November 19, 2013

David Black called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

*Peter Cunningham moved to approve the October 30, 2013 minutes as presented. Marshall Giguere seconded. Motion carried 4:0 (Alexander Woodle and Scott Wilson abstained; Steven Webber absent).*

Robert Pine recommends that the Bylaw move to new language regarding date certain now. He said that the removal of date certain is not intended to increase jurisdiction. Rather the change is to avoid language that is difficult to use by applicants. David Black shared his strong opinion that reference to a date certain is a mistake, but if the Conservation Commission does not find removal politically viable for Town Meeting then it can suggest alternative route. Michelle Collette observed that allowing a wholesale exemption is unworkable administratively.

Art Prest explained his Bylaw language stating that the date certain of 215-3(b) is left in but revises the language to point to the new definition of 215-7.A (3). The group then discussed the resulting redundancy but realized that the redundancy is important for members of the public who did not want to lose 215-3(b) entirely.

A few edits and areas to double check were noted including:

- adding the word physical so that Customary Appurtenances will read Customary Physical Appurtenances;
- reinstating Robert Pine's purpose and intent language;
- examination of 215-7 A.(1) presumptions;
- Takashi Tada will propose terms and definitions for Notice of Intent, RDA and abbreviated notice of resource area delineation;
- Robert Pine will revisit the building/structure references to make sure that the current draft retains the language changes agreed upon by the Committee in earlier meetings; and
- Beaver prohibitions can come out of the Bylaw and be referenced in the regulations.

David Black noted that the Committee does not have any more substantive issues with the Bylaw. For the stream map, the Committee can make a recommendation to the Conservation Commission and that it is up to the Conservation Commission to decide the direction that they would like to go with it as a policy matter. The Bylaw proposal needs a future public hearing and Town Counsel review.

Looking at the stream map, Michelle Collette compared the pictorial representation that is the stream map to the AppGeo produced GIS layer showing the new FEMA flood plain areas. This image was helpful to the public. The group discussed the likelihood that a stream map might become dated after three or four years. Then, the group acknowledged that the U.S.G.S. maps are thirty years out of date now and yet remain a useful tool. Marshall Giguere formally requested that two GIS layers be added to the stream map – hydrological connections layer and the wetlands changes layer. He explained that the layers could be added for minimal effort. Michelle Collette asked Marshall Giguere to join the stream map working group.

David Black invited Committee members to read over the Bylaw language carefully. At the next meeting, committee members plan to vote on the final wetlands bylaw document. The group extended its thanks to Art Prest for his contributions to the Committee. The next meeting will be January 8, 2014 at 8:30 am.

*Peter Cunningham moved to adjourn meeting at 9:45 am. Alexander Woodle seconded. Motion carried 6:0 (Steven Webber absent).*

Notes by Fran Stanley.