



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
Tel: (978) 448-1111
Fax: (978) 448-1115

WETLANDS BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

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

Meeting Date: January 8, 2014
Location: Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room, 173 Main Street, Groton
Members: David Black, Steven Webber, Marshall Giguere, Robert Pine, Alexander Woodle, Peter Cunningham
Others: Art Prest, Takashi Tada, Craig Auman
Handouts: Draft minutes from November 20, 2013; definitions list; draft Bylaw changes document

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

Peter Cunningham moved to approve the November 20, 2013 minutes as presented. Marshall Giguere seconded. Motion carried 3:0 (Robert Pine, Alexander Woodle and Scott Wilson absent; Steven Webber abstained).

Alexander Woodle arrived to the meeting. Committee members agreed to place the Wetlands Protections Act (WPA) permit names and definitions provided by Takashi Tada as well as the Commonwealth's referenced WPA form numbers in the 215-9 definitions section. Robert Pine arrived to the meeting.

Marshall Giguere reported that a draft of the proposed Bylaw changes was circulated to members of the Conservation Commission, but that he did not receive any comments in return. Neither did any of the meeting attendees find issues with the proposed Bylaw changes.

David Black commented that the Wetlands Bylaw Committee process resulted in a reaffirmation of the Bylaw and that this is a positive outcome. Peter Cunningham agreed saying that many features of the existing Bylaw were good and needed to continue. He noted that this Committee addressed the technically feasible versus reasonableness distinction. Also, the other sticky wicket was the date certain and the passage of time since the Bylaw's initial adoption has made that distinction less important.

Marshall Giguere reported that a Town working group that includes Michelle Collette, Takashi Tada, the Town's GIS contractor and himself will be meeting this Friday (January 10th) to work on the stream map.

Peter Cunningham moved to submit the draft of Bylaw changes to Town Counsel for review. Marshall Giguere seconded. Motion carried 6:0 (Scott Wilson absent).

The group discussed the timing for the public hearing. The public hearing for the warrant can be the time to discuss Bylaw changes, but group may want a forum that allows for more time to focus on the Bylaw. The presentation at Spring Town Meeting for the warrant Bylaw changes will probably be done by the Wetlands Bylaw Review Committee (WBRC) with David Black as the primary spokesperson, but the WBRC will bring up the matter with the Conservation Commission.

Marshall Giguere recommended that the creation of a full list of changes. David Black volunteered to create that document which will include the rationale for each of the changes. David Black said that he recognizes that the stream definition requires work. Further, there is scientific evidence that supports the expansion of the vernal pool buffer zones should the political will ever be there to expand the buffer.

Art Prest will raise Bylaw changes with the Lakes association. Art noted that the regulations on beaver dams remain problematic for him. The group discussed the fact that a number of suggestions have been passed on to the Conservation Commission as relates to its Bylaw regulations.

The next meeting will be January 28, 2014 before the Conservation Commission and, afterwards, The WBRC will present to the Board of Selectmen on February 3, 2014.

Steven Webber moved to adjourn meeting at 9 am. Peter Cunningham seconded. Motion carried 6:0 (Scott Wilson absent).

Notes by Fran Stanley