

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2017
6:30 P.M. – TOWN HALL
334 MAIN STREET**

PRESENT:

GAETAN LACHANCE
BILL BOYER
LISA BOZZUTO
JEFF COHEN
JESSICA DEZIECK – Absent
ANDREW MANKIN
DAVID SHANAHAN

SHEP EVANS – CONSERVATION AGENT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Gaetan LaChance called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

WPA NOI 167-0369 from Dave Inglis of Mahaiwe Harvest located on South Main Street, Map 37 Lot 93 for new agriculture in the resource area of the Green River, a NHESP habitat and a 100 year flood plain. A new reviewer will be assigned it/ when the ENF from Mr. Inglis is received at NHESP. **Continued from August 28, 2013.**

“ENF” Environmental Notification Form. Ira Kaplan presented to the Commission on behalf of Mr. Inglis. Mr. Mankin said that whatever the Conservation Commission can do to keep this moving and have the Commission stay updated he is in favor of.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin motioned to continue WPA NOI 167-0369 until the next meeting on November 15, 2017.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 6-0

WPA RDA from Eugene Atwood concerning construction of a new residence including extension of an existing driveway and construction of a new septic system. Property located at 241 Long Pond Road, Map 33 Lot 14-C.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin motioned to issue a negative number 1.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 6-0

WPA NOI 167-0411 from Native Habitat Restoration, LLC on behalf of Jeffrey Cohen, property at 47, 5, and 59 Hurlburt Road, Map 31 Lots 29A, 29B, and 29C. The proposed Ecological Restoration Limited Project includes the restoration of approximately 3.3 acres of mixed hardwood forests to native vegetation; the restoration of approximately 3.3 acres of wet fields to native vegetation to early successional conditions.

Conservation Commission member Jeff Cohen recused himself from the discussion and vote. Jess Toro presented on the WPA NOI 167-0411. Ms. Toro said they will be treating the invasive species with two different types of wetland approved herbicides. Ms. Toro is considering installing a game camera to see the growth after different intervals of seasonal mowing.

Ms. Toro said they will be spot treating the new growth of invasives after each mowing. Lisa Bozzuto said that she is not convinced that these herbicides are harmless and as a Commission she said they should continue to seek new solutions.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin motioned to approve the WPA NOI 167-0411 with the standard conditions and the requirement Native Habitat will come back before the Commission to present an annual report and if at any time they need to re-treat the invasives.

SECOND: Bill Boyer

VOTE: 4-1 –Lisa Bozzuto opposed.

WPA NOI 167-0412 from Foresight Land Services on behalf of Kirt Mayland of Rising Paper Land, LLC, property adjacent to the Housatonic River on the north side of Division Street, Map 7 Lot 30. The project includes the construction of an improved driveway and parking area to serve an improved canoe/kayak launch site on the Housatonic River and to serve as a train head for future riverside footpath that will run north to the vicinity of the PV Power Generation project next to the Rising Paper Mill.

Marc Volk presented on the WPA NOI 167-0412. Mr. Volk clarified that they are seeking approval for the alterations of the access road, parking area, and the boat launch. Conservation Commission Agent informed the Commission that the intention of the project is to improve the riverfront. The site is a former junk yard and there is a lot of discarded debris and junk left behind. While the construction is underway any debris found will be removed from the riverfront, thus improving the site. Jeff Cohen suggested that a condition should be to treat or remove the invasive species or a portion thereof during construction. Mr. Evans said the Commission could require the project to have an invasive species management plan with the standard monitoring conditions.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin motioned to approve the NOI with the standard monitoring conditions and the applicant will return to the Commission to present a invasive species removal plan.

SECOND: Jeff Cohen

VOTE: 6-0

WPA NOI from Berkshire Engineering on behalf of Camp Institute of Living Judaism (Camp Eisner), property at 52 Brookside Road, Map 38 Lot 11. The proposed work at Eisner Pond includes repair to a retaining wall, the dam outlet, the low level outlet structure and the inlet valve and removal of accumulated sediment. At the request of the Engineer, **continued from May 31, 2017 until November 22, 2017.**

MOTION: Andrew Mankin moved to continue the WPA NOI until the next meeting on November 15, 2017.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 6 -0

Report from the Great Barrington Land Conservancy, presented by Christine Ward, on the completion of the Bog Bridging and Observation Platform upgrades at Pfeiffer Arboretum and first progress report on the associated vegetation replication area.

Ms. Ward said the bog bridge and the observation platform have been completely rebuilt with locust logs. Will Conklin of Greenagers milled and delivered the locust to the Arboretum a total donation of time and resources of over \$2200.00. GBLC planted 36 Christmas Ferns and 34 survived.

Discussion of an Enforcement Order issued to Marion Gilliam mandating the completion of a restoration planting plan and a five year invasive species management plan on a 15 acre property on Monument Valley Road, Map 36 Lot 21. **Continued from July 26, 2017.**

The Conservation Commission signed the contract requiring Marion Gilliam to complete a restoration planting plan.

Discussion of an Enforcement Order issued to James Larkin on March 4, 2016 pertaining to alterations to resource areas at the confluence of the Green and Housatonic Rivers (Map 38 Lot 44). **Continued from September 27, 2017.** Gaetan LaChance is no longer part of the meeting and discussion.

The Commission reminded Mr. Larkin of the decision made to progress with the enforcement order and to come up with solutions regarding the de-forested area along the riverfront. Mr. Cohen said the Commission has been more than cooperative regarding these violations and he does not feel comfortable leaving this issue unresolved for any longer. Mr. Cohen suggested reinstating the fines issued to the Larkins until such time that a wetland scientist can present an invasive species control

and removal plan to the Commission that will also satisfy the requirements of Natural Heritage, DEP, and MA Fish and Wildlife.

MOTION: Jeff Cohen motioned to have the Conservation Commission re-impose the fines issued to the Larkins in violation of the alterations made to the resource riverfront areas. The Commission motioned to issue fines until a wetland scientist presents a plan for invasive species control and removal that will satisfy the requirements of the Commission, Natural Heritage, DEP, and MA Fish and Wildlife.

SECOND: Andrew Mankin

VOTE: 4-1 David Shanahan

Discussion among the Commission and with Jess Toro of Native Habitat Restorations and others concerning habitat management, grant applications, and other issues regarding the McAllister Wildlife Refuge.

MOTION: Jeff Cohen moved to approve a selection of Greenagers as Steward with the understanding that they would be paid by "Friends of McAllister Wildlife Refuge". Acknowledgement of the impending formation of "Friends of McAllister Wildlife Refuge, Inc." a 501(c)(3)

Motion to approve installation of :

- Kiosks (2) to be constructed and installed by Greenagers, which shall display trail maps
- Doggie bag dispensers with trash cans (2) (similar to River Walk) installed by Greenagers
- Signage (multiple) for trails
- Signage (multiple) for boundaries to be installed by Mike Parsons
- Signage (2) for "Welcome to McAllister "

Motion to approve that the Commission shall, as soon as possible, write a letter to all abutters (to be sent by certified mail, return receipt) advising them of the above-referenced improvements as well as those previously approved (to be implemented by Jess Toro) and to advise specifically as to the installation of boundary markers so as to resolve any confusion as to its location, confirming respective property rights, in conjunction with an invitation to a meeting with the Commission to celebrate and discuss the McAllister improvements program.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 5-0

- **Other subjects not reasonably anticipated by the Chair.**
- **Citizen speak time:**
- **Approval of Minutes** of the September 27, 2017 Conservation Commission Meetings.

MOTION: Jeff Cohen moved to approve the September 27, 2017 Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

Vote: 5-0

On a motion made by Andrew Mankin, seconded by Lisa Bozzuto, with a unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Jurczyk
Recording Secretary

