



MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

ONE AVENUE A · TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376 ·
PHONE: 413-863-3200 EXT 207 - FAX: 413-863-3222

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 10, 2011
Town Hall Upstairs Conference Room

Commissioners Present: *Mark Fairbrother – Chair, Donna Francis, Sean Werle, Addie Holland*

Commissioners Absent: *Deb Picking, Justin Fermann*

Staff Present: *Walter Ramsey – Agent*

Meeting called to order by Mark Fairbrother at 6:30 PM

Approval of Minutes: Not enough commissioners present to approve January 25 minutes. Will be reviewed at next meeting. February 22 Meeting was cancelled.

Discussion- Skunk Hollow Farm- Meadow Road

Mark Fiske 413-367-2012 from Skunk Hollow Farm on Meadow Road has a couple of issues to bring in front of the Commissioners. The commission agreed to discuss his concerns.

- 1) Meadow Road – A Town culvert which is clogged since the last storm. There seems to be no work proceeding on clearing up this issue in this part of the town. He has cleared the situation up on more than one occasion. He feels this is a town problem and a maintenance issue. The water is now rushing across road through a pipe into a hayfield and washing out crops that were just planted. The swale continues to be a problem after 15 years and is now full again. Mark said this is a recurring issue and in the pass has come in front of the town and he was referred to the USDA 15 years ago. Wants the town to look at this and feels it is a Town issue (DPW). Walter Ramsey visit the site with Tom Bergeron once the snow clears to get a handle on the situation.
- 2) In the front yard of a house on Meadow Road near the Book Mill they put in a raised septic system. This was to replace an existing septic system and they dug the entire front yard up. (There are wetlands 15 feet from the tank -this is near a resource area with an intermittent stream that goes behind the house). This septic system was done late in fall and in finished on December. Mark has now erected a silt fence to try and protect the gardens from severe run-off due to the unusual weather this year. Should there be any enforcement regarding the septic system? It was noted that the sand across the road could pose a threat motorcyclist or bicyclists. Walter and members of the commission will walk the property in the future. They need to see if they can enforce any regulations regarding the house that put in the septic system

Tom Bergeron, Frank Abbondanzio and Walter Ramsey to follow up with these issues surrounding Skunk Hollow Farm.

Discussion- Turners Falls Water Department- Hannegan Brook Well Main

Present: Ed Morin & Chairman, Mike Brown Water Superintendent

Preliminary discussion regarding the Turner Falls Water Department's plans to build a final segment of a water main from Hannegan Brook Well to the Pump House on Lake Pleasant. Plans titled "Hannegan Brook Distribution Main Site Plan" dated Feb 2011 by Stantec were referenced. The plans include the delineation of an isolated vegetated wetland. The planned main would be located within 25 feet of the boundary of the wetland. The commission was not in a position to make a determination as if the delineated wetland was jurisdiction under the wetlands protection act. The commission questioned the plan's use of a 200 foot buffer from the Lake Pleasant shoreline. The current project is under the jurisdiction of Natural Heritage and are required to have the work done before May when the turtles come out and the permit runs out. The wetland regulations in this situation to be clarified.

The commission recommends that the Turners Falls Water Department file a Request for Determination for the April meeting. If an earlier meeting is necessary the commission could arrange that.

Discussion of Greenfield Road Property:

Greenman-Pederson Inc., Consultants for the Town of Montague has requested that the commission review revised 25% plans for the reconstruction of Greenfield Road segment from Montague City Road to Hatchery Road. The Commission is requested to review and recap expired NOI #2000-10 in relation to the current proposal, discuss possible mitigation ideas, identify key issues prior to submitting an NOI. A copy of the plan is available for review at the Planning and Conservation Department

The original proposal was 4 miles of road work. Now it consists of 2 miles of roadway and includes from Montague City Road to Hatchery Road. All of the stream crossings and silt fencings along with the six stream crossings are all going to remain the same. There are new Stream regulations in place since the NOI was filed. The Stream crossings are triggered if it is a like for like standard. GPI is looking for guidance on this. Walter noted that this would likely be classified as a 'limited project' as in the 2000 NOI.

The big take away was going to be a wetlands replications area – which is a prime area. The replication area will now not be there as the road is going to stay where it is. The laws have changed for replication areas to be located in other areas in town. We are now just looking at the Northern half of the property. Is the wetlands replication area still warranted? Plans would need to be sent to Natural Heritage for review.

Commission requests that Walter prepare and distribute the commission's pre-application comments with the Town's consultant Greenman-Pederson Inc.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 7:30 PM by Addie Holland and seconded by Sean Werle

Next scheduled meeting: April 14, 2011 at 6:30 PM

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Montague Conservation Commission

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Montague Conservation Commission Pre-Application Comments

RE: Greenfield Road Improvements Proposed by Green man-Pederson Inc for the Town of Montague

Date: March 15, 2011

Submitted by: Walter Ramsey, Conservation Agent

On March 10, 2011 The Commission reviewed and commented the roll plans you submitted. The following is a summary of the comments:

- Widening a road less than one travel lane is considered a "limited project" under the Wetlands Act.
- NOI should clearly identify which resource areas are in jurisdiction and buffer zones should be more accurate. The commission requests seeing flag numbers on the plan.
- Bordering Land Subject to Flooding- compensatory storage will be required unless elevation remains constant
- MA Stormwater standards must be met if a new point source is proposed (i.e., replace headwall, new swale, relocating storm drain)
- Water Quality Certification is required for any activity proposed that would result in a discharge of dredged material, dredging, or dredged material disposal greater than 100 cubic yards that is also subject to federal regulation must obtain a 401 Water Quality Certification.
- Stream crossings- not triggered if "like for like". Standards are triggered if pipe is larger or new elevations are proposed
- Jurisdictional portions of the project are located in estimated and priority habitat. Send project plans to natural heritage for preliminary analysis and comment.
- Wetlands restoration area, if required, can be located anywhere within Montague.
- The commission cannot tell if a wetlands restoration area is required because we do not know the extent of impacted resource area
- TMDL does not apply to this project