

Southampton Conservation Commission
Meeting – April 23, 2018
Southampton Town Hall – First Floor Meeting Room

Present: Chair Marla Hanc, Treasurer Art Lawrence, Clerk Joy Rizos, Matt Fletcher, Teague Baker

Absent: Vice-Chair Bob Barcomb, Conservation Agent Mallory Larcom

Public Present: Diana Federman, 3 Birchwood Dr
Cheryl Fletcher, 22 Gunn Rd
John Thomas, TRC
Robert Kennedy, Burns & McDonnell
Amanda Zedonis Kemp, 1 Campus Ln, Easthampton
Sherry Marcyoniak, 59 Brickyard Rd Ext
John Marcyoniak, 59 Brickyard Rd Ext
Daniel Laprade, 6 Garfield Cir
Barbara Laflam, 20 Cook Rd

7:00 Meeting Called to order

Open Time to the Public

No members of the public spoke.

New Business

7:00 p.m. RDA 6 Garfield Cir - Applicant: Daniel Laprade

Ms. Hanc opened the public meeting and read the notice which had been published in the April 13 Daily Hampshire Gazette. A site visit held on April 21, 2018 was attended by Dan Laprade, Teague Baker, Matt Fletcher, Art Lawrence, and Marla Hanc. A check for the RDA fee of \$75 was received with the RDA application. A check for the Gazette legal notice was received - \$101.75. The project will not need an NOI, because even though it is located within the buffer zone, it is not going to alter the resource area. The applicant already has a manicured lawn at the site. Several trees will be removed in the construction. The Commission will put in certain conditions to be followed, which were reviewed by the Commission. Someone from the Commission will check on the site to make sure the conditions are met during construction.

Negative 3 definition:

The work described in the Request is within the Buffer Zone, as defined in the regulations, but will not alter an Area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent, subject to the following conditions (if any).

7:06 p.m. Motion to issue a Negative 3 with additional Southampton Conservation Commission conditions was made by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Baker. The motion passed unanimously with five (5) Yes votes.

Three copies of the RDA Form 2 were signed.

7:10 p.m. Chapter 61 - Request for waiver of option to purchase 111 Glendale Rd, Representative: Attorney Amanda Zedonis Kemp

Southampton Conservation Commission
Meeting – April 23, 2018
Southampton Town Hall – First Floor Meeting Room

Purchase & Sale Agreement was for \$720,000. Attorney Kemp represents the Wayne's in the sale and purchase and states that there will be a change of use to the land. The property is currently under Chapter 61 and has an abundance of wildlife habitat and water areas. Residents have spoken with the Kestrel Land Trust and the Commission is interested in purchasing. April 12th the certified letter was received – the town has 120 days to refuse or accept the offer. The Commission needs to look for funding for the purchase.

Mrs. Laflam discussed that this land was significant conservation land and how construction on it could affect the water resources. The area is a significant wildlife corridor. It was needed to foster land for wildlife. Mrs. Federman stated that she would advocate for the town to acquire the land.

The Commission discussed the CAPS program. This land ranks high in importance to wildlife for a wide range of species. It is criss crossed with streams and existing trails. Protecting it should be a priority. Mass LAND Grant to get open space and recreation money was discussed. The property is one of 5 priority parcels on the Open Land Master Plan. Mr. Lawrence brought up Mr. Garstka had once stated that 50+ acres of the 80 could be conservation land, but it was clarified Mr. Garstka retracted that statement. It was not a formal donation. Attorney Zedonis Kemp clarified Mr. Garstka has not drafted a plan. He is not finished with the due diligence and everything has been put on hold.

7:28 p.m. Mr. Lawrence made a motion for the Commission to make an official recommendation to the Selectboard. There was no second and the Commission declined to vote on the motion.

There was more discussion regarding the Kestrel Land Trust and potentially getting a bridge loan if the town accepts buying the land. It would need to be more than \$720,000.00, and may be done in conjunction with Community Preservation Committee.

7:35 p.m. Matt Fletcher will present at the CPC meeting and ask them to vote on helping the Commission to fund for the purchase of the property.

7:38 p.m. Mr. Baker makes a motion to find funding for the land and that Mr. Fletcher will go the CPC meeting to get their support. Mr. Fletcher seconds. 4 in favor. 1 nay (Mr. Lawrence).

Ms. Hanc will notify the Select Board that the Conservation Commission is researching funding and request that they delay voting on the Town's ROFR.

Old Business

7:40 p.m. 59 Brickyard Rd Ext – cattle crossing options

The farmers would like help and funding from the state to make any changes to the cattle crossings. PVPC meeting with dairy farmers in town should take place. There was conversation regarding 61A and farmers. The Marcyoniaks would like to speak with PVPC. There are major differences between their farms (grazing v. barnyard). They will arrange with Mr. Fletcher to get in touch with PVPC.

Southampton Conservation Commission
Meeting – April 23, 2018
Southampton Town Hall – First Floor Meeting Room

7: 54 p.m. NOI#289-0208 41 Valley Rd – Eversource project update by John Thomas (TRC wetlands scientist) and Bob Kennedy (Burns & McDonnell Project Manager)

The contractors are changing the area of boundary work to be outside of the buffer zone. They are shifting the area to the southeast. The following changes will be made:

1. Interconnection route relocation
2. Intermittent stream crossing

The contractors tried to obtain access from adjacent land but could not so they are using BMPs to create a 4x6 timber mat as a bridge to cross the stream, as addressed to the Commission. There are 11 acres on the property where the solar panels will be located. Trees will be removed and they will be running conduit under the stream. Eversource would like an acknowledgment letter from the Commission regarding the minor changes to the NOI.

8:00 p.m. Mr. Baker made a motion for Commission to send a letter to Mark Kasinskas regarding the change to NOI from Eversource. Mr. Fletcher seconded. All in favor.

Stewardship Projects

8:01 p.m. Pomeroy Mt/Durell Path - sign wording and placement

Ms. Hanc made contact with the Water Department and was told that the one acre property with the water tower has an access easement for the water line. The owner of the nearby roadway allows the Water Department access. The Board of Water Commissioners will bring the parking question up at their May 10 meeting. There is an easement that is going through for the water department, because the property is landlocked. Kurt Boisjolie will bring up the access of parking at the water tower, for hikers who want to use the property, at the Board of Water Commissioners meeting. The Highway Superintendent recommended parking on the unpaved section of the road. The Town maintains the road. The field is used for agriculture purposes and machinery needs to get by on the road. There was a discussion regarding the signs needing to be done as it is springtime and hikers are coming out to use the property. Where should the signs go? The Commission agreed there should be a map and Mr. Baker suggested making a sketch of the property in order to help volunteers to determine where to put up the signs.

8:14 p.m. Forest management on conservation properties

This venture is on hold until FY19, when the Commission will work with Tree Warden Ron Laurin.

8:14 p.m. Open space – Chapter 61, 61A, 61B

No new comments.

8:14 p.m. Status of survey work/blazing

Received invoice from Holmberg & Howe for work done on Alice Brown Conservation Area. Commission believed that Mr. Barcomb was going to get an estimate for pins, but instead received an invoice from Holmberg & Howe. The Commission tentatively signed the approval to pay after further discussion with Mr. Barcomb was had.

Southampton Conservation Commission
Meeting – April 23, 2018
Southampton Town Hall – First Floor Meeting Room

8:16 p.m. Volunteers

On April 23, Tim Goden, Michael Buehler, Brittany Gutermuth, Rob Gutermuth and Ms. Hanc walked along the Whittemore trails. Following that, most went on to the Manhan Meadows trails. The Whittemore area wasn't too bad, but in some cases there are invasives creeping in and there is a tree down. Mr. Godin has been doing a considerable amount of work to maintain the area. The Manhan Meadows Sanctuary is overgrown. Ms. Hanc stated they will try to get volunteers out there to clear it. Tentative volunteer work days are April 29 with a rain date of May 6. Commission agrees there should be "tailgate safety meetings" to warn volunteers of dangers, such as hanging tree branches.

8:20 p.m. Szczypta Conservation Farm and Barn

On Saturday, April 14, the dedication of the memorial to former Conservation Commission member Ed Nied, Jr. was held. Memorial was well received. It is on video. There was nice weather and many people attended.

8:21 p.m. Review RFP draft created by Bob Barcomb. The Commission reviewed the RFP. Suggested was made to prioritize each step. Mr. Barcomb will give it to Mr. Gibson once revised.

8:26 p.m. Motion by Mr. Lawrence to have RFP updated/revised and sent to procurement officer. Mr. Baker seconded. All in favor.

8:27 p.m. Print trail brochures, boundary and trail medallions.

Commission spoke with Emily Slotnick, PVPC, regarding the matter. There are four that need to be done. The little ones are \$100-\$125. Mr. Lawrence got sample brochures he showed the Commission.

8:30 p.m. Motion by Mr. Baker for Mr. Lawrence on behalf of the Commission, to spend up to \$500.00 for brochures, seconded by Mr. Fletcher. All in favor.

Regular Business

8:31 p.m. Conservation Agent update

The Commission discussed the Easthampton letter stating that they were terminating the Agreement with Southampton to share the Conservation Agent. The grant funding goes until fiscal year 2019, which begins in July. Ed Gibson, Town Administrator, is going to write back, that the agent should be working until June 30th in Southampton. The town needs to resolve whether Agent is going to work here now and whether Commission should send a letter to the Selectboard. There is specific wording in the grant for the purpose of the money and can't keep the money for the next fiscal year.

8:44 p.m. Motion made by Mr. Fletcher for Chair to send a letter stating the Conservation Commission will need the Agent until June 30th to wrap up ongoing projects, seconded by Mr. Baker. All in favor.

Southampton Conservation Commission
Meeting – April 23, 2018
Southampton Town Hall – First Floor Meeting Room

Review minutes from April 9, 2018

8:45 p.m. Motion to accept minutes as presented made by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Fletcher. The motion passed with four (4) Yes votes and one (1) Abstention (Ms. Rizos)

8:46 p.m. Treasurer's Report

Signatures

- Conant Wildlife Fund (Act #825200.701, SCC-FY18-P15)
 - Payable to Holmberg and Howe for Alice Brown Conservation Area work, \$1650.00
- Wetlands Protection (Act #245100.020, SCC-FY18-P16)
 - Payable to Ms. Rizos for MACC Annual Conference, \$125.00
 - Fleury Lumber for Stainless Steel Nails, \$9.50

8:50 p.m. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Fletcher. The motion passed unanimously with five (5) Yes votes.

8:52 p.m. Correspondence

Email

- April 10, 2018, from Atty. Ann Parizo – regarding Bashista Chapter 61A
- April 10, 2018, from Mark Kasinskas, Burns & McDonnell – regarding Eversource solar array - 4/4/18 SWPPP inspection report
- April 11, 2018, from MACC – regarding MACC & MassDEP Announce FREE Regional Wetlands Discussion Forums Coming to Your Area!
- April 12, 2018, from Mark Reed, Heritage Surveys, Inc. – regarding Bacis, Valley Road RDA filing
- April 17, 2018, from Mark Kasinskas, Burns & McDonnell – regarding Eversource solar array - 4/10/18 SWPPP inspection report
- April 18, 2018, from Louise Sullivan, PVPC – regarding Municipal Vulnerability Grants Available
- April 18, 2018, from Timothy Meyer, District Highway Maintenance Engineer, MassDOT – regarding proposed milling and resurfacing of Route 10 in the Town of Southampton
- April 18, 2018, from Mark Kasinskas, Burns & McDonnell – regarding Valley Road solar project - access across intermittent stream
- April 19, 2018, from Kestrel Land Trust – regarding Happy Earth Day! 4 Ways to Celebrate the Land
- April 19, 2018, from Michele Grzenda – regarding MSMCP vernal pool event next week, annual meeting next month, and much more!
- April 19, 2018, from Joy Duperrault (DCR) – regarding MVP Round 2 Announcement

Southampton Conservation Commission
Meeting – April 23, 2018
Southampton Town Hall – First Floor Meeting Room

- April 20, 2018, from Joy Duperrault (DCR) – regarding MVP Information Sessions on April 24th, WMass and April 26th, Cape
- April 20, 2018, from Mark Kasinskas, Burns & McDonnell – regarding Eversource solar project - Valley Road
- April 20, 2018, from Tim Hopkins, R & H Roofing, LLP – regarding 6 Coleman Rd
- April 23, 2018, from Kurt Boisjolie – regarding Parking near water tower?

Hard Copy

- Certified mail postmarked April 10, 2018 from Atty. Amanda Zedonis-Kemp - regarding request for Chapter 61 waiver of right to first refusal for 111 Glendale Rd
- Letter postmarked April 12, 2018 from MACC – regarding Free MassDEP & MACC Wetlands Forums
- Forest Cutting Plan prepared by Harry Wandeloski, College Highway, 23 acres, Vol. MBF 110, Vol. Cds. 60, Long Term Forest Management
- Forest Cutting Plan prepared by Thomas L. Anderson, Crooked Ledge Road, 4.78 acres, Vol. MBF 12M, Vol. Cds. 15, Long Term Forest Management
- Invoice dated 4/16/2018 from Holmberg & Howe for Project 2017-043 – Alice Brown
- ANR signed 4/18/2018 from Planning Board, Plan of Land in Southampton Massachusetts prepared for Theodore D. Towne by Holmberg & Howe., Date: April 9, 2018
- Postcard from PVPC – regarding 56th Annual Meeting of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission on June 14, 2018
- Check received for RDA filing fee from Christ Community of Hampshire County

Tentative Future Meetings May 7 & 21, June 4 & 18, July 2 & 16

Adjournment

8:55 p.m. Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Baker seconded by Mr. Lawrence. All in favor.