

Southampton Conservation Commission (SCC)

Meeting –July, 17 2017

Southampton Town Hall 1st Floor Meeting Room

**Attendees:** Chair Marla Hanc, Vice-Chair Robert Barcomb, Treasurer Arthur Lawrence,  
Clerk Brittany Gutermuth

**Absent:** Teague Baker

**Public Present:**

Matthew Fletcher, 22 Gunn Rd

Mark Reed, Heritage Surveys, Inc.

Reeny Groden, 8 Cheryl Ln

Lee Halasz, Kestrel Land Trust

**6:00 Open Time to the Public**

No member of the public spoke.

**Old Business**

**6:00 NOI 36 Cold Spring Rd**

Mark Reed spoke on behalf of owner James Garstka on plan change and presented new site plans. New plan with position of house rotated would not require filling of wetland. 60,065 sq ft of envelope. Septic to remain in riverfront area and be covered in grass with 3/1 slope. Impervious polyethylene barrier to be used to the North and East of the tanks to force effluent to go down instead of horizontally through the slope. Would submit to having 2-3 ft diameter rocks marking the limit of the lawn in the conditions. Site would need to be cleared for construction.

6:19 Mr. Barcomb made a motion to close the public hearing on NOI 36 Cold Spring Rd, Mr. Lawrence seconded. Motion passed unanimously with four (4) YES votes.

6:21 Mr. Barcomb suggested including use of 3ft plus diameter boulders along the limit of work line with no more than a 10ft spacing in the Southampton Order of Conditions

6:28 Mr. Barcomb moved to issue to Southampton Order of Conditions with additional condition including the rock boundary. Mr. Lawrence seconded. Motion passed with three (3) YES votes and one (1) NO (Ms. Gutermuth).

**6:31 EO: Whiteloaf Rd**

No new information to report.

6:32 Mr. Barcomb made a motion to move up New Business Farmland: Lee Halasz, Kestrel Land Trust; Mr. Lawrence seconded. Motion passed unanimously with four (4) YES votes.

**New Business**

**6:32 Farmland: Lee Halasz, Kestrel Land Trust**

Mr. Halasz presented work on importance of farmland preservation.

APR usually requires 20% match, but other factors including being a Right To Farm community, having an Agricultural Commission, and using a tracking system can reduce the 20% requirement.

Found 71 parcels of interest in Southampton based on soil, open land, current use, etc

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**7:07 Red Brook Estates CR**

The Winding River Land Conservancy, based in Westfield, will be merging with the Franklin Land Trust. Some of Winding River's conservation properties will be transferred to the Amherst based Kestrel Land Trust. Winding River holds a Conservation Restriction on portions of Red Brook Estates. The CR requires that the property be monitored annually and a report produced detailing the findings to make sure they are still in compliance. Red Brook Estates pays for the annual assessment cost. The monitoring consultant doesn't usually charge that amount for the visit and report. Suggestion by land trusts was to spend some of the excess on educating the residents on water quality preservation, i.e. lawn chemical use, where the water goes/comes from. Mr. Barcomb suggested using excess to enforce the restrictions.

Winding River and Kestrel would like the Southampton Conservation Commission to take over the CR from Winding River. Concern over logistics of the CR, will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Stewardship Projects**

**7:17 Status of survey work/blazing.**

No new information.

**7:18 Volunteers**

July 10<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Searle informed Ms. Hanc that he had done some tree clearing and marking for the new trail and is ready whenever there are volunteers available to create the trail.

Ms. Gutermuth will be doing a nature walk for the summer library reading program to reach new volunteers.

**7:21 Szczypta Barn**

Mr. Sarafin will provide an estimate to remove construction debris from the lower floor of the barn. The Fletchers will be mowing around the barn next week, they are still discussing what to do with the barn as part of their lease. Their tentative plan is to clean up the field and use the barn for shelter for heifers.

A goal was set to obtain funding from CPC to fix roof and have it on the October town meeting.

**7:33 Whittemore Conservation Area**

Ms. Hanc is in the process of letting all parties know Southampton will be returning the grant for the bridge.

**7:35 Pomeroy Mountain/Durell's Path**

Mr. Barcomb made a motion to spend up to \$1000 for Atty. Adamski to research deeds and ROW to access land-locked Pomeroy Mountain. Land and town road is now marked private and access is being denied by the homeowner. Mr. Lawrence seconded. Motion passed unanimously with four (4) YES votes.

**Regular Business**

**7:46 Elect: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Clerk**

Will wait until next meeting with all members present.

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**7:47 Review minutes from July 3, 2017**

Mr. Barcomb moved to accept as presented, Mr. Lawrence seconded. Motion passed unanimously with four (4) YES votes.

**7:49 Treasurer's Report/Budget**

Mr. Lawrence presented on financial account spreadsheets.

Mr. Barcomb moved to accept Treasurer's Report, Ms. Gutermuth seconded. Motion passed unanimously with four (4) YES votes.

**7:50 Signatures**

- Wetlands Protection (Act #245100.020, SCC-FY18-P2)
  - Payable to Marla Hanc for postage paid to USPS \$19.11

**7:52 Correspondence**

**Email**

- July 5, 2017, from PVPC – regarding The 'Art' of Public Engagement!
- July 7, 2017, from Cori Garrett-Goodyear (DCR) – regarding 2<sup>nd</sup> extension on a cutting plan on Gunn Rd, Southampton-Gunn-Fletcher\_276-7230-15 E E2
- July 7, 2017, from Lindsay Martucci (MACC) – regarding eMACC Advocacy Update - July 7 (note that Fall Conference will be Saturday, October 28, in Sturbridge)
- July 7, 2017, from Kestrel Land Trust – regarding Special Event: History, Nature, & Culture Along the Chicopee River
- July 10, 2017, from Michele Grzenda – regarding MSMCP member renewal, upcoming workshops, survey, and much more!
- July 10, 2017, from Mark Stinson (DEP) – regarding WERO Circuit Rider call in nights for July
- July 11, 2017, from Ruvim Mosijchuk – regarding 186 College Highway
- July 13, 2017, from Velda Goldberg, Assistant Town Administrator – regarding appointment of Matt Fletcher to Conservation Commission
- July 14, 2017, from Mark Reed, Heritage Surveys, Inc. – regarding Garstka-36 Cold Spring Rd., Southampton Amended NOI, DEP File #289-0210
- July 14, 2017, from John Bator, Pascommuck Conservation Trust – regarding Bridge Project Closure
- July 15, 2017, from Lee Halasz, Kestrel Land Trust – regarding Southampton Farmland Resources Assessment Project

**Hard Copy**

None

**Records Requests**

None.

**7:54 Schedule site visits**

None

**7:54 Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Barcomb, seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Motion passed unanimously with four (4) YES votes.

**Tentative Future Meetings:** August 14 & 28, September 11 & 25, October 9 & 23 2017