

Southampton Conservation Commission (SCC)
Meeting – March 16, 2015
Southampton Town Hall Meeting Room

Attendees: Chairman Charlie McDonald, Treasurer Arthur Lawrence, Randall Kemp, Rick Thibault, Robert Barcomb, Secretary Marla Hanc

Absent: Vice-Chairman Matthew Christy

Public Present: James Gracia, 99 Glendale St., Easthampton
Mark Reed, Heritage Surveys, Inc.
Mark Mason, 71-2 Pequot Rd.
Steve Thibault, 32 East St.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

7:00 Open Time to the Public

Mark Reed, Heritage Surveys, Inc., representing Anthony Borgatti, gave Mr. McDonald two copies of an NOI for 31 Freyer Rd. and a check for \$217.50 for the state and local NOI filing fees. Mr. Reed also submitted an application for a Certificate of Compliance.

Regular Business

7:02 Minutes

The minutes from March 2, 2015 were reviewed.

A motion was made by Mr. Lawrence to accept the minutes from March 2, 2015 as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barcomb. The motion passed with four (4) YES votes and two (2) Abstentions (Mr. Thibault and Mr. Kemp).

7:05 Treasurer's Report

Mr. Lawrence presented the Treasurer's report. He will request that Vickie Moro, Town Accountant return \$1000.00 from the "Maps for Szczypta Farm" account # 285100.829 back to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). Virginia Ahart, CPC Chair, had informed him that the funds allocated for Szczypta maps could not be used for the Szczypta property signs.

Signatures:

- SCC-FY-15-P18 from Conant Wildlife Fund (#825200.701)
 - Payable to Puffer Printing/Sign Invoice #8972 Copies for Grant, \$36.25
 - Payable to Puffer Printing/Sign Invoice #9011 Copies for Grant, \$42.00
- SCC-FY-15-P19 from Wetlands Protection (#245100.020)
 - Payable to Daily Hampshire Gazette for public notice for 71 Pequot Rd NOI, \$69.25

7:10 A motion was made by Mr. Thibault to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Kemp seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with six (6) YES votes.

7:12 Correspondence

Email

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- March 4, 2015, from Mark Stinson (DEP) – regarding DEP Western Region Circuit Rider news for March 2015
- March 5, 2015, from DLS_Alert@dor.state.ma.us - regarding City & Town - March 5th, 2015
- March 5, 2015, from Mark Reed, Chair, Southampton Park Commission - regarding Conant Park Erosion RDA filing
- March 9, 2015, from Ecological Landscape Alliance – regarding Upcoming Educational Events
- March 10, 2015, from James N. Levitt, Editor – regarding Conservation Innovation UPDATE: First Quarter 2015
- March 10, 2015, from Jaimye Bartak, AICP, Senior Planner, Environment and Land Use, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission - regarding 604b water quality project on the Manhan

Mr. McDonald read Ms. Bartak's email. E. coli bacteria has been found in the Manhan River. PVPC is applying for a grant from the state and is requesting volunteers for water quality sampling and a letter of support.

7:18 A motion was made by Ms. Hanc to support the 604b water quality project on the Manhan. Mr. Kemp seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with six (6) YES votes.

- March 12, 2015, from DLS_Alert@dor.state.ma.us - regarding Course 101 Registration Now Open
- March 12, 2015, from russ.cohen@state.ma.us – regarding Mass. Division of Ecological Restoration's Ebb & Flow electronic newsletter #23 - March, 2015
- March 12, 2015, from Jacqueline Sears, Select Board - regarding Conservation Commission Project Submission Form
- March 13, 2015, from James A. Gracia, PE – regarding Shea Mason NOI, additional information concerning the existing docks at 71 Pequot Road
- March 13, 2015, from Mark Stinson (DEP) - regarding RDA Conant Park - Southampton 42.225667, -72.728531 - Slope and Bank stabilization
- March 16, 2015, from Mark Reed, Chair, Southampton Park Commission - regarding RDA Conant Park - Southampton 42.225667, -72.728531 - Slope and Bank stabilization
- March 16, 2015, from Misty-Anne Marold, Senior Endangered Species Review Biologist, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife - regarding RDA Conant Park - Southampton 42.225667, -72.728531 - Slope and Bank stabilization

Hard Copy:

- Massachusetts Congress of Lake and Pond Associations, Inc., post card announcing MACOLAP's 28th Annual Lake and Pond Management Workshop, Saturday, April 4, 2015, Worcester, MA
- Massachusetts Open Space Network, invitation to Massachusetts Open Space Conference, Saturday, May 9, 2015, Ashburnham, MA
- From Planning Board, copy of Plan of Land in Southampton, Massachusetts surveyed for Lawrence P. & Carlene Rodrigues, dated January 29, 2015, by Heritage Surveys, Inc., off Maple St.

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7:27 NOI 71 Pequot Rd. (DEP File # 289-0197), Applicant: Mark D. Mason, Representative: James A. Gracia, PE

Mr. McDonald read aloud the email from Mr. Gracia regarding revisions to the plan. Two copies of the letter narrative and plans dated 2/6/15 were presented

From the NOI: “The project being proposed consists of the demolition of an existing dwelling and the construction of a new single family dwelling over the footprint of the existing dwelling. The existing dwelling, to be demolished, is located within the 100’ Buffer Zone of Pequot Pond and its associated emergent wetland and BVW. A new septic leaching system shall be required for the new dwelling, but all components of the new system shall be located outside of the Buffer Zone. No disturbance of the wetland resource areas shall be proposed.” Large white pines will be removed. A Chapter 91 dock license application was submitted as part of the NOI.

A check for \$189.75 was received for the state dock fee and the NOI public notice in the Daily Hampshire Gazette. A check for \$100 was received for the NOI local filing fee

The site visit was scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 6:00 PM. Mr. Gracia agreed to continue the hearing.

7:42 A motion was made by Mr. Barcomb to continue the NOI hearing to April 13, 2015 at 7:20 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thibault. The motion passed unanimously with six (6) YES votes.

7:43 RDA: Conant Park, Applicant: Town of Southampton, Representative: Mark Reed, Chair, Park Commission

Mr. McDonald read aloud the advertisement which had been published in the Daily Hampshire Gazette. The proposed work is located at the emergency spillway at the pond in Conant Park and at the storm water swale in the parking area around the library and pavilion. On June 28, 2014 a visit of the Conant Park erosion sites was attended by Mr. McDonald, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Barcomb, Mr. Kemp and Ms. Hanc. The erosion has become significantly worse since last fall. At this time, the Select Board has only authorized funding for the stabilization of the earthen berm at the dam. The MESA filing fee will be \$300. Steve Thibault, who lives on property abutting Conant Park, expressed support for the project.

8:13 Mr. Barcomb made a motion to issue a Negative 3 with standard conditions on WPA Form 2 Determination of Applicability, section B Determinations. (The work described in the Request in within the Buffer Zone, as defined in the regulations, but will not alter an Area subject to protection under the Act. The work does not require filing of a Notice of Intent, subject to conditions.), to cover both sets of proposed repairs at Conant Park. Mr. Kemp seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with six (6) YES votes
Three copies of the RDA were signed.

8:18 Open Space Projects

8:18 Stewardship Project List

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A list of projects needed at the Manhan Meadows Sanctuary and Nancy Whittemore Conservation Area was reviewed. It can serve as a starting point for civic groups or individuals wishes to help the SCC.

8:25 Project Form Review

Select Board member Jackie Sears had sent a generic Project Submission Form to the SCC. Ms. Hanc was asked to customize the form for the SCC. The customized form was reviewed and a change was suggested in the “ongoing maintenance” section.

8:35 A motion was made by Mr. Barcomb to put the Stewardship Project List and Project Submission Form on the Town web site. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with six (6) YES votes. Mr. Lawrence will upload the documents.

8:36 A motion was made by Mr. Barcomb to spend \$700.00 out of the Conant Wildlife Fund to finish decking on the suspension bridge at the Manhan Meadows Sanctuary and to ask the Boy Scouts to complete the bridge work. Mr. Kemp seconded the motion for discussion.

Mr. Barcomb noted that at the prior SCC meeting Mark Stinson (DEP) had said that maintenance to the suspension bridge at the Manhan Meadows Sanctuary could be permitted via an RDA, depending upon the project. Mr. McDonald said that one end of the suspension bridge is on the Howland property and is not included as such in the Howland CR. Mr. Barcomb said he would contact the Howlands for permission. Ms. Hanc asked if a portion of the bridge might continue to be under water during some of the year as it had in the past. Concern about the liability to the Town if someone were to get hurt was raised as was the concern about the responsibility for ongoing maintenance. Mr. Kemp suggested that a sign could be posted to notify people that the Boy Scout Troop was responsible for the bridge and the repairs as needed. Mr. Kemp said he would review the current Massachusetts River and Stream Crossing Standards to ensure that the bridge design/repair is compliant.

The motion did not pass with two (2) YES votes, three (3) NO votes (Mr. McDonald, Mr. Lawrence, Ms. Hanc), and one (1) Abstention (Mr. Kemp).

9:05 A motion was made by Mr. Thibault to put the funding of the suspension bridge repair on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Kemp seconded the motion. The motion passed with five (5) YES votes and one (1) Abstention (Mr. Barcomb).

CPC Money/Sign Project Szczypta - Covered under Treasurer’s Report.

Next Meetings

The next SCC meetings are planned for April 13 & 27, May 11, June 8 & 22, July 6 & 20, August 3 & 17, and September 14 & 28.

9:06 Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Kemp to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lawrence. The motion passed unanimously with six (6) YES votes.