



PETERSHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

3 South Main Street • P.O. Box 486 • Petersham, MA 01366-0486
978/724-3353 tel. • 978/724-3501 fax

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING 1 November 2016 APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS:

- ✓ John Baker
- ✓ Robert Clark
- Ashley Gabrenas
- David Lockesmith
- ✓ Ry Parcell
- ✓ Henry Woolsey
- ✓ Tyson Neukirch
- Tom Webber (associate)

GUESTS:

None.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm in the Town Office Building. The meeting was duly published, posted on the Town website, and the Meeting Agenda was received by the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Minutes of the October 2016 regular meeting were not available for the meeting.

New Member

Members welcomed new member Tyson Neukirch. Tyson and Emily Anderson farm the King Farm, on which the Town of Petersham holds a CR.

Forest Cutting Plans

1) Members reviewed a cutting plan for Thomas Montgomery, for work on 10 acres on Carter Pond Road. No wetland or stream crossings are required, and no cutting in wetlands is planned. White pine and red oak are the principal species to be harvested. The DEP file number is 234-8429-17.

2) An approved cutting plan for Davis and Francis Phillips (Parcels 284 & 366) was reviewed. The DCR File number is 234-8438-17. The work is scheduled for 21 acres along Oliver Street. Two short stream crossings, spanning an ephemeral watercourse tributary to Roaring Brook, are required, which will be accomplished via bridges. White pine and red oak are the principal species to be harvested.

3) A plan for cutting on land owned by Bob Clark and Fifi Scoufopoulos, of 22 Old New Salem Road (Parcel No. 673) was reviewed. The land is south of Rt. 122, near Bald Hill, and the DEP file number is 234-8377-17. The plan covers 20 acres, requiring two short wetland crossings, plus some limited cutting in one small wetland. White pine, hemlock, red oak and red maple are the primary species to be cut. This is an amended plan previously approved. NHESP has indicated that no adverse effects on wildlife or wildlife habitat are anticipated.

MACC Fall Conference

Bob Clark made members aware of the annual MACC Environmental Conference, to be held at the College of the Holy Cross, on 4 March 2017. John Baker noted that several groups of his students at Clark University would be presenting posters based on their fall CR monitoring work for the Town.

CR Monitoring

John Baker informed members that his students had formally monitored the King Farm, St. Mary's, and the Gould Woodlot on the preceding Friday. Next Friday they will monitor Landworks Farm, the Day CR, and Rice's Roots. CR monitoring reports will hopefully be presented to the Commission at the 6 December meeting.

Culvert under Rt. 122 near Old New Salem Road

Bob Clark reported that the State Highway Department had made an attempt to stabilize the bank at the failing culvert under the highway at this point. The effort consisted of a type of blanket fabric held in place by riprap. Nothing further has been done. Bob Clark informed members that it is likely that the culvert will be replaced, but no date has been set, nor have any specifications been determined. Bob Clark informed members that at present, this type of protective work can be done as "maintenance", and thus does not require an Order of Conditions.

Bridge on Glen Valley Road over the East Branch Swift River

The bridge on Glen Valley Road is completed, and seems to be generally well done, with little or no disturbance to the stream. However, the slopes to the sides of both the east and west approaches seem quite steep, and although there is some vegetation being established, it may be insufficient should we get heavy rains. Subsequent visits by John Baker and Ry Parcell confirmed the general opinion that the slopes seem excessively steep and potentially erodible.

Kiosk at Harvard Pond

No update on this structure.

Roadside Erosion Control

No updates on this issue.

DCR Applicability Decisions under the Watershed Protection Regulations

None.

Approval Not Required Actions

None.

Old Business -- Certificates of Compliance

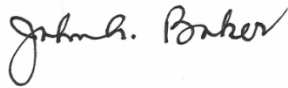
Bob Clark noted that several Orders of Condition were sufficiently old that Certificates of Compliance should be able to be issued. However, no such requests have been received. Bob Clark questioned whether the Commission should make an attempt to contact holders of such Orders.

Miscellaneous

None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John A. Baker
Recorder