



PETERSHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING Tuesday, 14 May 2013 MINUTES

MEMBERS:

- ✓ John Baker
- ✓ Robert Clark
- ✓ Ashley Gabrenas
- Heidi Lux (Associate)
- ✓ David Lockesmith
- Tom Webber
- ✓ Henry Woolsey
- ✓ Don West

GUESTS:

Cynthia Henshaw (EQLT)

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm in the Town Office Building. The meeting was duly published, and the Meeting Agenda was received by the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the March 2013 regular meeting were unanimously approved with minor additions and corrections.

King property CR plan

Cynthia Henshaw, of the East Quabbin Land Trust, provided a summary of a discussion held during the Open Space and Recreation Committee meeting that preceded the present meeting. She showed a map of the property proposed for purchase by local residents Emily Anderson and Tyson Neukirch, and on which the Town would purchase a conservation restriction on approximately 100 of the 106 acres. Commission members were made aware of the overall process and deadlines. Plans are for the paperwork to be completed by early July, in order to meet a state deadline for applying for LAND funds to assist with the purchase. Bob Clark noted that the Open Space and Recreation Plan needed to be updated.

Forest Cutting Plans

Members inspected an approved cutting plan submitted by Carole Hutchinson, P.O. Box 733, for cutting on the west side of Monson Turnpike, the work to be on about 45 acres. The DCR file number is 234-6333-13. Two short wetland crossings are planned.

Review of DCR Applicability Decisions

The DCR has issued a decision that the work proposed for repairing the dam at Harvard Pond, along Route 122, was exempt from the Watershed Protection Act regulations. Although the work is within the primary protection zone, the work is exempt because there will be no enlargement or other significant change to the existing structure, and the structure was in existence prior to the passage of the Act. The dam is only being repaired.

Approval Not Required actions

None.

Requests for Determination of Applicability

Bob Clark informed members that the Commission had received three requests for determination from the Petersham Highway Department. Bob has scheduled three site visits on Sunday, 19 May 2013, to inspect the three sites at which the Petersham Highway Department plans work. Two sites are along Monson Turnpike, one south of Hwy. 122 and one north; the third site is on Flat Rock Road. There will be Public Hearings on these three requests at 7pm, Tuesday, 21 May 2013.

Wetland Protection Act

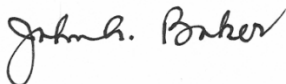
Bob Clark noted that some amendments to the Act were forthcoming. He had perused the proposed changes, and indicated that they were quite minor.

Miscellaneous

David Lockesmith noted that the Town mowers appear to be spreading Japanese knotweed as they move from place to place. He had noticed that the knotweed rhizomes can be carried around on the mower. He suggested that we notify Tim Graves of this potential problem. Knotweed has now spread to several sites in Town.

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

Respectfully submitted,



John A. Baker
Recorder