

**HANSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF JUNE 27, 2017
TOWN HALL, 542 LIBERTY STREET, HANSON, MA**

Called to Order at 7:00 PM under M.G.L. c 131, §40 and the Hanson By-Law 3-13, §5 and Rules and Regulations by Phil Clemons, Chairman, in Meeting Room A at the Town Hall.

Present: Phil Clemons, Chairman
Sharon LePorte, Member
Brenna Audette, Clerk
Paul Andruk, Vice Chairman

Absent: Bill Woodward, Member

Also Present: Laurie Muncy, Agent (arrived at 7:30 PM)
Rebecca Nehiley, Administrative Assistant
Michael Deveau, Associate Member

Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of June 13, 2017 with minor corrections: Sharon LePorte
Second: Paul Andruk
Vote: 4-0-0

Public Hearings

7:00 PM Continued Notice of Intent for the construction of an addition to a single family home and associated grading within the 100 ' buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland at 55 Leon Court, Map 2, Lot 6A for John Fortes (**DEP #SE175-0681**)

Motion to continue until 7/11/17 at 7 PM per request of applicant: Sharon LePorte
Second: Paul Andruk
Vote: 4-0-0

Discussions

Forestry Management Plans

Mr. Clemons updated the Commission as to the two grants that the Commission was awarded last fall that would pay for two forestry management plans for the Smith Nawalzeliski Conservation Area and the Poor Meadow Brook Conservation area the intent of which is to improve the conditions of their ecosystems and wildlife habitats. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) approved the applications and also awarded Hanson a grant for a Bird Habitat Assessment Plan for bird species of high interest to the State. Mr. Clemons commented that he, Ms. Muncy and Ms. Nehiley had a meeting today with Liz Newland of the Division of Fish and Game along with Phil Benjamin of Benjamin Forestry Services, Inc. to discuss the aspects of the plans in detail, especially the Smith-Nawalzeliski property. A power point presentation will be scheduled in the fall to educate the public on the benefits of forest management. The plans will be implemented at a date to be determined.

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Motion to encumber \$5,000.00 to cover environmental consulting fees from the Wetlands Revolving Expense Fund: Paul Andruk

Second: Sharon LePorte

Vote: 4-0-0

Appointments

7:15 PM Appointment with Frank Westgate representing Kevin Estano for an informal discussion regarding the potential for work at 176 Adams Circle, Map 120, Lot 115

Mr. Westgate approached the Commission. He stated that he was a Land Surveyor and presented a plan of existing conditions (Study Sketch) dated 5/5/16 and photos of flood conditions at the property in question. Mr. Clemons asked when the photos were taken to which Mr. Westgate replied "within the last month." Mr. Westgate explained that Mr. Estano, who was not present, wanted to fill along the bank of the river upslope to his pool and build a retaining wall so that floodwaters wouldn't erode the bank. He wanted to know if the Commission had ever allowed something like this.

Mr. Clemons asked when the house was built, as this information is important as well as the date the photos were taken. Mr. Westgate was not sure. Mr. Clemons asked if he was familiar with the Rivers Protection Act as it would be a rare and unusual thing for a Conservation Commission to allow fill in the riverfront area. Mr. Clemons provided a graph of stream stats taken from USGS which has kept 51 years of stream flow data. The Indian Head River has varied a lot. Last September was the lowest it has been since 2008. Ms. LePorte asked how often it floods. Mr. Clemons answered "As a river, it will vary." He commented that the Commission's jurisdiction is 100' from the bank and isn't allowed to permit things unless there's a strong enough reason. He suggested if there is a concern of flooding, moveable objects should be moved to higher ground and doubted a wall would be part of the solution

Discussions

Request for a Certificate of Compliance for 357 Phillips Street, Map 57, Lot 18 for Dennis Dunphy (DEP #SE175-351)

Mr. Clemons reported that he and Ms. Muncy had made a site visit to the property to compare what was there to what was recommended by the restoration plan. The retaining wall had been built, but not completed. There were dozens of species of grasses and shrubs, but they couldn't find any of the specimens outlined in the plan. He added that invasives have taken over. The owner arrived while they were there. He doesn't live there and intends to sell it. Ms. Muncy arrived to the meeting at 7:30 PM. Mr. Clemons had discussed the possibility of plantings with a cash surety to cover two successful growing seasons with the owner. He recommended issuing a partial certificate of compliance. Ms. LePorte commented that she was against a partial certificate as the retaining wall is not completed and said the project is more undone than done. She preferred that the owner finish the project.

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Motion to deny issuance of a Partial Certificate of Compliance and substitute alternative documentation directing owner to complete the project prior to passing papers and require a bond to cover two successful growing seasons: Brenna Audette

Second: Paul Andruk

Vote: 4-0-0

Request for a Certificate of Compliance for 56 Indian Path, Map 62, Lot 12-18 for Don Weber (DEP #SE175-0425)

Motion to approve and issue a Certificate of Compliance: Paul Andruk

Second: Sharon LePorte

Vote: 4-0-0

Update on Camp Kiwanee Resource Management

- **Volleyball Court maintenance**

Mr. Clemons reported to the Commission that he had recently spent a lot of time with the Recreation people. They had asked if they could maintain the volleyball court at the beach in anticipation of the impending season. Mr. Clemons was of the opinion that the court had been cleared and used as part of the beach since 1950 and it seemed reasonable to make simple recommendations. To that end, he had sketched a plan so that they could clear some overgrowth, smooth out the area and leave trees intact. The proposed sketch was added to the Beach Erosion Control Management Plan as an appendix. Mr. Clemons said that the Commission and Recreation need to work on the whole place and that the management plan could be used as a doorway into being more environmentally responsible.

- **Employ wetland scientist to delineate entire developed portion of Camp Kiwanee (Camp Kiwanee beach area, pond waterfront and alongside the brook and edge of ballfield)**

Mr. Clemons commented that the Commission will need to create data that will support any decisions that are made in the future. To that end, he suggested coordinating with a wetland scientist sometime in the next year. He said the goal is to have a good working relationship with the Recreation Commission, their Director and they with us. As a side note, he mentioned that the water gauge was installed at Maquan Pond based on the work that John Delano had done last fall. It's calibrated in tenths of a foot. According to the USGS, the pond level is 74' above sea level. Right now, it's at 73.9. The intention is to monitor the level of the pond every week through the summer and beyond.

Flood Risk Review meeting at Kingston Town Hall on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 1 PM – this was an FYI to all interested parties. Mr. Clemons is attending.

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Old Business/New Business

Ben Meadows/Invoice - **signed**
WB Mason/Invoice – **signed**
Agent Mileage/Invoice – **signed**

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM: Paul Andruk
Second: Sharon LePorte
Vote: 4-0-0