

Holland Conservation Commission

27 Sturbridge Road, Holland MA 01521

Minutes of Conservation Commission: May 9, 2017

Members Present: Chairperson Marcia Beal; Kathy McKenna; Andy Harhay; Fran Gallo; Chris McCooe; Anne Hall

Members Absent: Jessica Chaffee

Other Attendees: Jim Dsuza attended this meeting to observe and possibly consider joining the Conservation Commission.

Marcia Beal called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Motion made by Chris McCooe to accept minutes of April 25, 2017 as amended. Second by Marcia Beal. All in favor-- motion passed.

Correspondence/Email:

- 4/25/2017: Invitation to Mass Wildlife Open House in Westborough on Saturday, June 10, 2017.
- 4/25/2017: Information from Carol at Greenhill Engineering to Fran Gallo regarding 58 Morse Road and 4/25/2017 questions regarding OCC. Fran took care of it and the email was filed in the folder.
- 4/25/2017: On line verification for filing OCC for Philbin (#184-0332). Put in File.
- 4/26/2017: OCC extension for 184-129 Hamilton Reservoir Lake Management— Weed Treatment. Put in File.
- 4/26/2017: Ken Ferrence wrote with concerns about a buried pipe that empties into the lake. He contacted Union, CT and nothing was done. Wants to know if Holland ConCom can do anything about this. He is concerned that the run-off from the pipe is polluting the lake. Chris McCooe noted this has been an on-going problem. Mark Stinson told Chris that this is a Board of Health issue. Andy Harhay will talk with the board of Health about what can be done to protect the lake.
- 4/26/2017: Barbara Newton sent a copy of the Encumbrance Form to ConCom and also an outline for the 2017 Year End Process.
- 4/27/2017: Kelli Robbins notified ConCom regarding the Conflict of Interest training. Kelli missed ConCom on the original message, and she indicated all members need to recertify except for Marcia and Mary (Kathy) McKenna. Members should check with Kelli about the training.
- 4/28/2017: Barbara Newton regarding year-end process with information and deadlines. Andy has the information.
- 4/30/2017: Jim Duzsa sent an email regarding a neighbor's dock that he feels is longer than 50 feet. He wants ConCom to do something.
- 5/2/17: Invitation to sign up for income determination and eligibility training for MassHousing.
- 5/2/17: Jennifer Ohop sent an email noting that the bird pictured in our wildlife pictures is a Great Blue Heron—not a blue herring!
- 5/2/17: Invitation to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's Annual Meeting. RSVP by June 8
- 5/6/2017: Brandon Cove Response from Mark Stinson. If the town is not the applicant or not sponsoring then there will be a filing fee. The fee for an individual as applicant would be between \$500 - \$900. Water and Sediment testing will not required if below 100 cubic yards and/or below 5000 square feet.
- 5/8/2017: **May Webinar--Communicating the Effects of Map Changes on Flood Insurance – *What to Know; What to Say.*** May 11, 2017 from 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- 5/9/2017: Kelli Robbins sent an email wanting to know if anyone has a copy of the Fuss and O'Neil Analysis done on the reservoir? Both Andy and Chris responded to Kelli that it was returned to Lynn Arnold (LOC).
- 5/9/2017: 4 emails from JoAnne Higgins with catch basin pictures. A fifth email explains how to get into the file. Joanne followed up with explanations for each of the pictures. Pictures to be printed and filed along with explanation of pictures. Chris will speak with JoAnne Higgins about the purpose of these pictures and if Conservation is expected to do anything. There was no explanation.
- 5/9/2017: Email from Joy Duperault with the New 2017 CRS Manual attached to be downloaded.

Correspondence/Mail: No mail

Phone Calls/Messages: No Phone messages

Old Business:

- **Update on 24 Brandon Street:** Someone called in anonymously and said they were doing construction without a permit. The property owner is Cynthia Fox. Cement footers/pilings have been installed. No pictures of equipment on-site were taken. Marcia tried to contact owner.. **Decision: Send an enforcement letter with certificate of mailing.**
- **Litter/Bulk Day Update:** No bulk day has been set up. Anne feels that there is no need to push a bulk trash day at this point, as Brian Johnson and the Highway Dept. have removed the metal and tires of concern. Trails Committee said there was \$500 available for a Bulk Day or perhaps "do not litter" signs. Anne suggested aluminum signs for "hot spots" that are reflective. She will move forward with this, and see if the Board of Health will help contribute to the cost of the signs. Ann will follow-up with the Board of Health with regard to scheduling a yearly clean-up day in the spring to coincide with Earth Day.

New Business:

- Tablets were priced and we talked about the actual need and purpose for obtaining tables. Andy was unable to obtain free working tablets. It was decided that a large screen to project plans and pictures would be more helpful during meetings than individual tablets.
- **Motion:** Anne made a motion that we purchase a Smart TV up to \$250 to use for display of plans and pictures during meetings. Chris seconded the motion. All in favor motion passed.
- **Motion:** Fran made a motion that we approve funds for up to 2 people (\$80 per person) to attend Wetland Plant ID workshop. Kathy Seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Anne wants to know what the sources of pollution are on the lake? Andy mentioned the software and infrared photography that can identify pollution sources. This was described by Mark Stinson at a recent meeting. Members would like to get more information on this. Andy suggested we approach the Board of Health about the feasibility of doing this.

Informational Meeting with Planning Board Chair (6:30 pm)

Dennis Allard, Planning Board Chair: Review of Building Plans for 19 Lakeridge Drive/Donadio—DEP #184-0334.

Meeting Opened at 6:34 pm

Person's Attending: Chairperson Marcia Beal; Kathy McKenna; Andy Harhay; Fran Gallo; Chris McCoee; Anne Hall; Dennis Allard, Jim Dusza

- **Discussion:** Questions for Dennis regarding the septic expansion. He shared the plans for Ralph Donadio that now indicate he would not need to do a new septic system. Dennis indicated the septic is only big enough for a 2-bedroom not a 3-bedroom house. The septic appears to be less than 50 feet from the water. The plan needs to accurately define size of septic and distance to lake. Mark Ferrell is the engineer. Ralph and/or Mark Ferrell need to present a plan that shows what is happening clearly reflects boundaries and distances. Dennis Allard's opinion is that the septic is so close to the water a tight tank would be better. The proposal is to build a large home outside the original footprint. The lot is 50.79 wide approximately 158 feet deep. The septic and home building may impact the resource area. The house will be 1200 square feet and 2 floors with a walk-out basement. The planning board holds public hearings on Monday or Wednesday nights at 7 pm. For building purposes, abutters are 300 feet according to the Holland By-Laws. Concerns were raised about the permitting process when so many town boards are involved. Dennis noted that the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is available to help with streamlining the permitting process. Unfortunately, Holland was unable to obtain a grant for this year. Dennis indicated that he will try again for next year. Dennis expressed a concern that Conservation holds hearings during our meetings when other boards are meeting. He suggests that we consider holding hearings on either Mondays or Wednesdays.

Public Hearing--NOI: 184-0334/ Ralph Donadio (19 Lakeridge Dr.) New House Construction

Meeting Opened at 7:00 pm by Marcia Beal.

Person's Attending: Chairperson Marcia Beal; Kathy McKenna; Andy Harhay; Fran Gallo; Chris McCoee; Anne Hall; Ralph Donadio (owner); Arnold and Faith Paul, abutters (21 Lakeridge Dr.); Chad and Janice Brigham, abutters (16 Lakeridge Dr.), Jim Dusza

Discussion:

- Revised plan dated 4/25/17: Clarified that this is the final revision. House dimensions are 30 ft. x 40 ft. Septic was put in previously and apparently just got recertified for a 3-bedroom home. Ralph said he is not changing or adding to the Septic System. Neighboring wells are 50 feet from septic and 80 feet from septic. New house proposal is for 1800 square feet to replace a 450 square foot house.
- Chad and Janice Brigham (16 Lakeridge Drive/abutters): Concerned about the septic and its impact on the lake. She is concerned about the size of the house and its impact on her view. Ralph wanted to know why septic is a conservation concern since he already has a signed approval from Board of Health. Ralph submitted a letter signed by Arthur Quinn, Agent for BOH, saying that the septic system is as-built in and can accommodate a 3 bedroom house. He feels the plan has minimal impact on the land because it will not disturb the septic system. Ralph was asked if the house was occupied year-round by the previous owner. Ralph indicated it was year-round. Neighbors say it was only used on weekends.
- Arnold and Faith Paul (21 Lakeridge Drive/abutters): Here to find out what is going on because they had little information. They have a dug well and are concerned about the impact on the water quality.
- Mr. Kowalski, Board of Health joined the discussion. He said that wells need to be a minimum of 51 feet. He noted that the current septic was installed in 2006 and was deemed an acceptable plan in 2006. The wells were far enough away when the system was designed. Mr. Kowalski explained how Title V works. He said Title V assumes 3 bedrooms. Ralph Donadio noted that according to Mark Ferrell, who engineered this system, it should be able to handle 3-bedrooms.
- Ralph Donadio wrote a check for the newspaper ads.
- The new house is 70 feet from the water. It is going up and back. Conservation cannot do anything about the septic system approval. Our role is to focus on the order of conditions to protect the lake. In order to do this, a site visit will need to be made. A site visit to 19 Lakeridge Drive has been scheduled for Wednesday 5/10/17 at 5:15 pm.
- **Motion:** Chris made a motion that the hearing be continued to our next meeting on May 23, 2017 at 7:30 pm. Anne Seconded. All in favor motion passed.
- **Decision:** Site visit to be made at 5:15 pm on 5/10/2017.

Public Hearing was closed at 7:34 pm.

Walk-ins

RDA Meeting: Lot 21 Julia Ann Drive--R 31 D21 (Lot #21)— Kyle and Javonna Merullo:

Meeting Opened at 7:45 pm by Marcia Beal.

Person's Attending: Chairperson Marcia Beal; Kathy McKenna; Andy Harhay; Fran Gallo; Chris McCooe; Anne Hall; Kyle and Jovanna Merullo; John P. Mitchell and John Mitchell, Jr. (East Coast Tree Service).

Discussion: A neighbor cut down numerous trees on the Merullo's property and left logs and tree debris. This has been an on-going issue for several months: East Coast Tree Service completed an RDA to clean up the brush for Julia Ann Drive. Tree debris will be pulled up, with equipment that will be on the driveway. The clearing will take place on Lot #21, and they want an OK on just the clean-up. Kyle Merullo noted that he can't get licensed professionals to give him an estimate of what to plant because of all the trees, brush, and debris down on the property. Asked if clearing the tree debris evidence would impact the court settlement. The damage was documented through pictures. They want to be able to use the property this summer, and are very concerned about the stability of the slope with large logs and debris on the property. Discussed that they will need to return to Conservation to figure out the best way to replant. They need to hire an environmental engineer to determine the best planting for maintaining the stability of the slope. East Coast Tree Service said that the skid will be about 74 feet from the water, and they will pull the logs and brush up. It is a very steep slope. Logs and brush will be moved by hand or by winch. Straw Wattles need to be placed down by the water for protection.

Phase #1: Clear trees and brush

Phase #2: Determine what to replant to maintain the stability of the slope.

Motion: Chris McCooe made a motion for a Negative Determine #3 for clearing downed and damaged trees. Second by Anne Hall. All in favor. Motion passed.

Decision: RDA accepted with a Negative Determination #3

Conditions:

- Protect the lake and waterfront with several straw wattles, silt fences and other measures as needed at least 40 feet from the water. Protect all along the waterfronts of lot #21 and the right-of-way.
- Stumps to remain
- No work to be done in the rain or when very wet.
- Use right-of-way for equipment to pull trees up hill and away.
- No equipment in the water.
- Protect right-of-way next to lot #21 at the lake as well.
- No equipment 40 feet from the water and/or in water to remove trees and debris.
- Marullo's to return to Conservation when clean-up is complete (within 30 days) to review replanting plans (Phase #2)

Kyle Merullo had a question about a National Grid pole that has wire brace attached to a tree that not going to last. National Grid gave them 2 scenarios.

RDA Meeting closed at 8:30 pm

Christine Marley and Roger Harrison (5 Heritage Court):

They came in regarding a tree on town property that is in danger of falling on their house. They came to Conservation because they noticed it was on our minutes under correspondence. They were told that Brian Johnson is the Tree Warden. He could not determine which tree they were talking about. The tree has now been marked with white paint, but as of tonight, they have not heard anything from Brian Johnson. It has been 2 weeks. Conservation referred them to JoAnne Higgins. Chris suggested she email Highway Department and the Board of Selectmen in addition to speaking with JoAnne Higgins.

Jim Blanchette: 3 Massaconic Trail:

He wants to replace his house and enlarge the footprint and replace the septic on a separate lot. He was informed that he must contact the DEP for an NOI. Marcia suggested that he consider asking Mark Ferrell to do this for him as Mark has all the technical information. Based on our meeting with Dennis Allard, Conservation suggested that he go to the Board of Health first for approval, before coming to Conservation.

Next Meeting Date: May 23, 2017

Suggested Agenda Items:

- Hearing continuance for Ralph Donadio 7:30 pm.
- Update on tree clean-up on Julia Ann Drive
- Use of clerical support—focus on tasks that need to be done.
- Update on weed treatment NOI

Motion to adjourn made by Chris McCooe at 9:55 pm. Anne Seconded. All in favor—motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:55 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Kathy McKenna

CC: Select Board, Town Clerk, Board of Health, Planning Board, Building Inspector, Highway Surveyor, Zoning Board of Appeals, File and HCC Chairperson, Board Clerk

