

MILFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting of August 11, 2011

Present:

Audrey Fraizer- Chair
Andy Hughes, Hub Seward, Andy Seale, Becky Lorette- Full Members
Chris Costantino - Alternate Member
Fred Elkind - Conservation Coordinator

Excused:

Kim Rimalover, Diane Fitzpatrick, Wayne Hardy, Rodney DellaFelice

Also Present:

Chris Guida (Fieldstone Land Consultants); Shawn Morin (15 Boulder Dr.)

The public meeting of the Milford Conservation Commission was called to order by Audrey Fraizer at 7:05 PM

Approval of Minutes:

1. Minutes of the June.11 meeting were considered. Andy H.. moved and Chris C. seconded the motion that minutes of the June 11 meeting be accepted as presented. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.
2. Minutes of the July 14 meeting were considered. Chris C. moved and Andy H. seconded the motion that minutes of the July 14 meeting be accepted as presented. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Appointments:

None

Unfinished Business:

1. Halstead Proposed Wetlands and Buffer Disturbances - Rte 13 Lot 52-18-1 - Chris Guida of Fieldstone Land Consultants represented Carolyn Halstead. Chris G. introduced the project which includes wetland and buffer disturbances immediately south of the Lull Farm property. The issue, as Chris G. understands it, is that the Commission is concerned that there may be an alternate access from Melendy Rd. or through abutting property that might avoid the impacts. The applicant had discussed access with the owners of the Lull Farm property and they have no interest in a land swap, easement, or otherwise allowing access through their property.

Attention turned to the Melendy Rd. access. Chris G. provided photographs of this area and explained that the presence of the existing house, septic system, and well restricted where the access could go. The available area is comprised of an approximate 40% slope which would require extensive cuts to place a drive that meets town requirements. The amount of disturbance would be much greater than would be required at the Rte 13 entrance.

Audrey suggested that it appeared that there is a considerable slope at the Rte 13 location. Chris G. agreed that grading will be required but the impact on abutting properties an overall site disturbance would be less.

Fred indicated that an abutter had suggested that the proposed access does not follow a logging road as is indicated. Chris G. agreed that the access had been disturbed by the test pitting equipment and indicated that the property had been logged about 25 years ago. He knew of no other access points for the logging.

Audrey questioned the adequacy of the 15" culvert. Chris G. indicated that it would work for drainage but could be flooded by beaver activity.

Andy H. asked if trees would need to be removed at the access off Rte 13. Chris G. indicated that trees would not need to be removed at the access (Rte 13 ROW).

The Commission discussed the project. Hub believed that the proposed access would have less impact than would the Melendy Rd. option. Becky felt that some conditions would be required. These would include no salting, buffer signage and buffer notifications.

Hub moved that the Commission recommend approval of the applications for wetland and buffer disturbances with the following stipulations:

1. There should be no salting of the driveway
2. The buffer should be marked with appropriate signs
3. The existence of the buffer should be identified in the deed.

Andy H. seconded the motion. Hub, Andy H., Andy S. and Becky voted in the affirmative. Audrey and Chris C. voted in the negative. Passed 4:2.

2. Conservation Commission Goals - Audrey suggested that the Commission Discuss the Goals at a work session. The session was set for September 22nd at 7 pm.

New Business:

1. Sunny Prairie Farm Wetlands Application - An application for a minimum impact agricultural wetlands application has been received. The plan was prepared by the County Conservation District with the assistance of the NRCS. Two culverts are proposed to allow the crossing of a seasonally wet area. The need for the culverts and specific locations were discussed. Chris C. moved approval, Andy S. seconded the motion and the approval of the plan was unanimous.

Interdepartmental Reviews

None discussed

Reports:

1. 15 Boulder Dr. - Fred outlined the issue that was brought to his attention by code enforcement. A shed had been constructed on the subject property. The fill associated with the shed placement appeared to be partially within the 50' buffer of Great Brook. As Mr. Morin was present, he was asked to explain the impact. Following staff suggestions, Mr. Morin and his contractor measured the distance the fill extended from the brook and determined that the slope of the fill is likely within the buffer. Mr. Morin would like to keep some of the fill and understands that a request for a Special Exception must be submitted to ZBA. He further understands that Conservation Commission provides guidance to the ZBA. His intent for being at this meeting was to see how the process worked and what must be done to move ahead in a timely fashion. He requested that the Conservation Commission perform a site visit, and if possible, provide specific guidance on what it would find necessary at this point. A site walk was scheduled for August 25th at 6 pm.

2. Melendy Rd. Tunnel Contract - Chris Guida advised the Commission that the research had been completed and the field work would begin in about a week.

3. Fitzpatrick Bench - Chris informed the Commission that the dedication of the bench on August 5th was well attended and Diane was surprised. The bench granite was donated by Bill Fitzpatrick and Steve Trombly donated installation services. The engraving was completed by Medlyn and that \$250 bill has been authorized for payment. The Board of Selectmen will be asked to accept the donation of the bench on August 22nd.

4. Resource Issues - Souhegan River - Fred reported that a petroleum release, apparently a #6 type oil, was discovered behind 15 Amherst St. The age of the release is unknown as is the source. DES is investigating. Fred is assisting in the investigation.

Coincidentally, the river elevation behind the Goldman and McLane dams is being lowered to assist with sediment sampling as part of the dam removals investigations. The river is at a level that has not been seen for many years.

5 Commission Picnic - The picnic on August 6th, which was well attended, is probably the last to be held at the Fitzpatrick residence.

Discussions:

1. 2012 Budget - Audrey provided an updated accounting of the current 2011 budget. Commission expenditures are well within budgetary limits. The Commission discussed which accounts and activities should receive the spending focus for the remainder of the year. Chris indicated that there is money in the training budget and she has a program she would like to attend regarding bike usage. The cost is \$60.00. The consensus was that Chris should attend the meeting and the Commission should pay for the registration fee.

Audrey presented the 2012 budget which includes minor changes from the existing. The Commission supported the 2012 budget.

2. 4th Saturday Hike - The next hike is at Hitchiner and Burns. Audrey will lead the hike. She will meet with others to preview the route.

3. Hitchiner Mowing of fields - License - There was some confusion as to the number and locations of the fields. The Commission will consider this item at its next meeting. Fred will bring an aerial view of the site.

Announcements:

None

Communications:

None

There being no other business to come before the Conservation Commission, Audrey adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm.

Diane Fitzpatrick

Hub Seward

Rod DellaFelice

Chris Costantino

Wayne Hardy

Audrey Fraizer

Becky Lorette

Andy Hughes

Andy Seale

Kim Rimalover