

Topsfield Conservation Commission

Minutes of November 30, 2011

Topsfield Town Library Meeting Room

Members present: George Hall, Holger Luther, Jim MacDougall, Mark Erickson, Jim Carroll, Cheryl Jolley, and Jennie Merrill – Commissioners; Lana Spillman, Administrator.

Attending the meeting: Joe Geller, Roy Baessler; Selectman Gandt joined the meeting at approximately 8:15.

Chairman Hall opened the meeting at 7:15 and went right to the first item of new business.

Request:

RDNI 2011-18: High Street & Maple Street (Map 58, Lot 002, Map 49, Lot 082).

Joe Geller appeared as chairman of the Rail Trail Committee to request permission to install two culverts; one at the trail entrance off Maple Street, and the other one at the entrance of the trail going east off High Street. Geller also requested permission to place a bollard at the trail entrance just east of Boston Street. He stated that rain flowing along both Maple and High streets tends to erode the stone dust of the trail. The purpose of the culverts is to intercept that stormwater runoff from the streets and divert it into adjacent swales to be dug for that purpose. Hall asked about the extent of the affected resource areas which hadn't been cited in the RDNI application. The Maple Street site is surrounded by wetlands and adjacent to School Brook. There was discussion about where that water originates. MacDougall pointed out that it probably flows from the Fairground field #3 in an easterly direction into the south-east corner of the field and then over Maple Street, and so a better approach to managing the stormwater problem may be to determine if the drainage system in that field can be restored to divert that runoff into School Brook. Spillman explained the wetland and flow of water across the field and MacDougall suggested that there could be a culvert south of the wet area in the field. It was recommended that the location of such a culvert and removal of obstructions be investigated as an alternative to installing a culvert at Maple Street. At the area in question at High Street the culvert installation and swale to be dug will lie in buffer zone of BVW adjacent to the Ipswich River and in Riverfront Area. TCC asked that Dave Bond, Highway Superintendent, review and approve the plan details. The Commission deemed the activities associated with the proposed culvert installations to have a negligible effect on the resource areas. Erickson moved to issue the DNI for High Street, on the Wenham side of Route 97, with approval of hydrology and details by Dave Bond as a condition. The motion was seconded by MacDougall. The vote in favor was unanimous. The Commission tabled action on the Maple Street culvert request pending further information about the existing drainage systems in that area. The matter will be taken up on Jan. 11, 2012.

Luther moved to approve the installation of the bollard at the Boston Street entrance; Merrill seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Meeting Minutes:

Nov. 9th, 2011

Luther moved to approve the minutes as drafted and amended. It was seconded by Erickson. The vote was unanimous in favor of approval.

Other:

Enforcement Order 11-17-2011, 221 Washington Street, (Map 47, Lot 2), Galka

Action is ratification of the issued order. Spillman explained that Galka had placed fill in the buffer zone of BVW and Bylaw riverfront area of Fish Brook. He was in fact contacted about that and ordered to stabilize the pile of soil with erosion socks and a tarp cover pending the eventual disposition of the soil. He allegedly agreed to comply, and it was noted that he had covered the pile with pine needles. The EO also required him to appear before the TCC, but he was unable to comply as he was in the hospital for day surgery earlier in the day. Spillman noted that the DEP agent, Ron Stelling promised to have a look at that infraction while inspecting the remedial work at 215 Washington Street.

Luther moved to ratify the Enforcement Order issued to Mr. Galka concerning 221 Washington Street. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Restoration (EPA AO & TCC EO) for Cross Street/Meredith Farm, (Map 62, Lot 2), Nash Review of revised plans and update.

Spillman reported that Bill Manuell has submitted revised plans for proposed work in the second phase. Since water is still flowing in the stream, the work will have to proceed in segments, with each segment dammed upstream and the water diverted with a portable pump. There was discussion about the type – a gasoline powered portable one being a candidate. TCC discussed the need for a spill kit to be available onsite, as a condition. The next step for TCC, following issuance of the final EPA letter, would be issuance of an Amended EO, with conditions, to order that the second phase of work be done.

School Brook Coliform Contamination Report

Hall indicated that he will write a cover letter for that report.

DEP Consent Order and Bylaw EO 2008-1, 252 Rowley Bridge Road, (Map 80, Lot 13), Rowley Bridge Realty Trust

Spillman noted that the DEP had conducted a site inspection of the remediation areas to which the TCC had not been invited. TCC awaits an inspection report from the DEP (Stelling). No action was required on this item.

Proposed 2012 Filing Deadlines and Meeting Dates.

Erickson moved to approve the calendar subject to revision relative to the actual business volume, stated in a footnote. Luther seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Administrator's Report:

Activities at 120 High Street/Hickory-Beech Subdivision.

Spillman reported on stormwater and drainage concerns in the subdivision, including the large amounts of water running across Lot 8 (20 Hickory Lane). She had talked with the builder, Ed

LeClair, who had voiced his concerns – particularly about the water running through the backyard. This matter had previously been reported to the Planning Board in an inter-office memo, but there had not been any follow-up.

No action on this item was required.

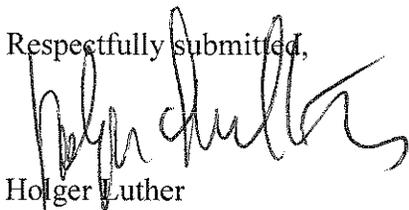
FY 2013 Fin Com Budget Guidelines.

The FY Fin Com budget guidelines have been issued. They indicate step increases for those eligible and a 2% increase in compensation and other, but no new government and all capital purchases to be kept under \$200K. Spillman will draft a budget for FY-2013 to be reviewed.

Adjourn

Luther moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Holger Luther
Vice-Chairman, Conservation Commission

Accepted at the TCC meeting on December 14, 2011

Pursuant to the 'Open Meeting Law,' G.L. 39, § 23B, the approval of these minutes by the Commission constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting, the members present and absent, and the actions taken at the meeting. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion of any matter, is included for the purpose of context only, and no certification, express or implied, is made by the Commission as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.