

Topsfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting held December 14, 2011

Topsfield Town Library Meeting Room

Present were: George Hall, Mark Erickson, Jim Carroll, Holger Luther – Commissioners, Lana Spillman – Administrator.

Absent were Commissioners: Jim MacDougall, Jennie Merrill, and Cheryl Jolley

Attending the meeting were: Roger Hale (during the discussion about Hickory Beech Subdivision), and Selectman Dick Gandt.

Hall called the meeting to order at 7:10 with a quorum present.

Request:

CoC 307-0177A: 15 Kinsman Lane (Map 78, Lot 31), Gilbert.

This request is relative to work done a number of years ago to fill a swimming pool in the backyard of the house adjacent to a BVW. This work was completed, and Spillman recommends the issuance of a CoC. Luther moved to issue the CoC for the work at 15 Kinsman, Carroll seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of November 30, 2011. Jim Carroll moved to approve the minutes as written and amended. Luther seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Other:

EPA Phases I, II Final Letter and TCC Amended EO 12-06-2011, Cross Street, (Map 62, Lot 2) Nash.

Spillman reported about the recently issued EPA Order and the TCC Amended Order. The latter had appropriately been modified to include requirements for an on-site spill kit to remediate fuel spill accidents.

Luther moved to ratify the Amended EO issued 12/6/11. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

EO 11-17-2011: 221 Washington Street (Map 47, Lot 2), Galka.

This is an update: Galka is still in pain but has plans to attend the Dec. 28th meeting (assuming it is held).

No action was required.

Rail Trail and Fairground Field at 223 Boston Street (Map 49)

Discussion took place of drainage issues on that field as they affect the rail trail stone dust erosion off Maple Street. Geller and Baessler have surveyed the drainage area at the bottom of the field. MacDougall has information regarding a blocked swale and culvert. Geller will attend the Dec. 28th meeting (if held).

No action on this issue was required.

Activities at Hickory Beech Subdivision (Lots 5, 6, 7, and 8): Stormwater runoff issues.

Luther summarized the findings as reported in his Site Visit Reports dated 12/5 and 12/12. The latter was made with Larry Beals. Luther then reported on a possible solution to the problem created by the Lot-6 drainage swale that Beals will present sometime next year. Luther explained that Beals stated that the stream running at the rear of Lots 7 – 9 flows from a couple of vernal pools upslope offsite; it is a jurisdictional stream under the Act and the Bylaw. Hall remarked that he had misgivings about the TCC constantly being asked to “clean up” other people’s problems and that there are water and drainage problems that don’t come under the jurisdiction of Town government. Spillman stated that the swale would be only a partial solution to the stormwater problems at Hickory Beech, and that the TCC had received written letters of complaint from Heinz Ito and Roger Hale, both of the adjoining Caitlin Lane relative to anticipated problems relative to the fill on Lot 19.

No action on this matter was required at this time.

High Water and Beaver Activity Concerns.

Spillman stated that the TCC had received letters of complaint relative to high water from residents of: Perkins Row, Asbury Street, and Timber Lane. *She mentioned that where beaver activity is a concern these had been referred to the BoH.* Hall stated that it is high time for the Town to formulate a coherent, lawful action plan for managing the high water, including beaver activity that is one of the causes of the reported high water. This led into an intense discussion by TCC members and Selectman Gandt on the advisability of having such a plan and appropriating a budget for its execution. It was noted that the TCC is not the appropriate agency to *do that work*. At the end of this discussion, there was no agreement on this issue. No action on this item was possible.

Parking in Resource Areas at the Fairground, 207 Boston Street.

MacDougall was to give a presentation on the ecological impact of the current practice of parking cars on Field #1 at the River Gate entrance to the Fairground during Fair week. This presentation will be held over until another date.

Administrator’s Report:**Ferncroft Country Club, OoC 307-0583, Pond Dredging Project.**

Spillman reported on the site visit of that project on Dec. 8th. Water in the ponds was so high that it was not possible to see the completed restoration work at their edges, nor could any dredging proceed. Dredging activity will resume once the water level is down and the ground is frozen. The restored hill at the former dumpsite has a sturdy growth of grass for soil stability. This area will be planted with shrubs and trees in the spring. Additional plantings are required on the planting shelves created during the dredging process.

No action was required on this issue.

FY 2013 Proposed Budget.

Spillman reported that she met with the Selectmen to discuss the proposed budget and that her budget as seen in the draft is a reflection of those discussions. Hall will take this matter up at a future meeting.

Adjournment:

Luther moved to adjourn the meeting, Carroll seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Holger Luther
Vice-Chair, Topsfield Conservation Commission

Accepted at the TCC meeting on December 28, 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.