APPROVED

Topsfield Conservation Commission

Minutes of Wednesday, February 9, 2011
Proctor School Library

BoH - Board of Health
BoS - Board of Selectmen
DEP - Department of Environmental Protection
EPA - Environmental Protection Agency
IRWS - Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
Mass CAPS - Massachusetts Conservation Assessment and Prioritization System
TCC - Topsfield Conservation Commission

Present: George Hall, Chairman; Mark Erickson; Cheryl Jolley; Jim MacDougall; Jud Pratt; Holger Luther; Jennie Merrill; Lana Spillman, Conservation Administrator; Lisa Nihan-Demeule, Minutes Secretary; Dick Gandt, BoS liaison.

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm.

19 (Map 6, Lot 23) and 19R (Map 11, Lot 2) Pheasant Lane, Land Swap and Warrant Article, O'Malley
Mr. O'Malley was present.
Hall has submitted wording for a warrant article. The two parcels involved in the Land Swap would have a value below the threshold of $25,000. MacDougall had met with Mr. O'Malley and walked the property. O'Malley showed his document entitled "Plan of Land in Topsfield, MA, showing Land Swap Between the Town of Topsfield Conservation Commission and Timothy & Brigitte O'Malley." Hall pointed out six points shown on the map and suggested there be markers placed in those certain locations by the end of April. O'Malley needs to get an appraisal and survey to TCC by April 22 to confirm it is the exact plan to recommend at town meeting.

CoC 307-0624: 59 Main Street, (Map 41, Lot 25), LeClair/Millennium Engineering

Continuation CoC 307-0598: 48 Rowley Road, (Map 6, Lot 14), Nelson

Spillman indicated both certificates are waiting for final site inspections. These will be placed back on the agenda when they are ready to be acted on.

TCC 2011 Action Plan
MacDougall has created maps by taking all the information on the natural history of the town and seeing where overlaps occur with riparian zones, certified and potential vernal pools, etc. and called it "exemplary habitat." The map will be tailored to Topsfield. TCC office will

have the map and can identify the property and educate the property owners of the importance of their property.
Topsfield is the model for efforts to restore the watershed. Stream continuity and maintaining water flow is going to be more important. Topsfield is going to be a test community for Mass CAPS which is a community-based approach for assessing the ecological integrity of lands and waters and prioritizing land for habitat and biodiversity conservation. Each culvert will be categorized, measured and inventoried. The data will be fed into a computer at UMass, which will prioritize culverts to be replaced for the most ecological benefit. The Highway Dept. will be made aware of the map so they can prioritize what culverts to replace. DEP upholds that the size and flow rate of culverts cannot be changed. Army Corps requires that any replacement of culverts meet a new standard which does not take flow rate into account.
Northeast is getting more precipitation. It would be ideal to work with DEP to identify major detention areas that could hold water, replace culverts and have flow restrictors on them temporarily. Topsfield meters all flow from Topsfield to Ipswich. The town has topographic rates and flow rates. FEMA did a flood analysis for downtown Ipswich because of flooding there. In the 60's the Army Corps did measurements. An Ipswich CC member ran present-day numbers and found increasing precipitation. MacDougall wants to organize a watershed roundtable. TCC would develop long-range flood storage plans for public safety. Luther would like replaced culverts to be of least resistance to amphibious and aquatic creatures.
MacDougall also has mapped out a history of bridges in town, as well as the mills and dams, and has an inventory going back to 1654. He identified mills/dams at Salem Street, Peabody dam in Howlett Brook (1680), Pimms, Averhill in the IRWS (1690), and the oldest mill in Town is on Mile Brook at Klock Park.
In 1996 water usage in town was 200 million gallons per year. Last year it was 140 million. Water conservation does work. Lawn irrigation is the main concern. Hall asked what TCC can do in terms of design requirements and encouraging people to capture stormwater and put it back in the ground. MacDougall indicated that the problem downtown is nitrogen loading in the water. If the town bought a sampler, it could monitor, test and establish a benchmark which is a good way to document storm events and meet EPA guidelines for stormwater management. Luther added that the BoH is starting a nitrate testing program. Hall suggested developing an action plan.

Remand Hearing 307-0638: 57 Candlewood Drive/109R Perkins Row, (Map 43, Lot 7) Skeffington
Spillman has drafted an order. At least one culvert, the one in the intermittent stream, should be removed. Hall acknowledged that there is a fair amount of expense associated with culvert replacement. Erickson asked if TCC could secure a professional company to ensure evidence of removal. Hall read from the June 20, 2001, Simmons Environmental Service report and the Superseding Order of Conditions. Hall suggested that at preconstruction, there should be a walk-through of the site, and all debris be identified, inventoried and removed. If in the course of excavating, other material is encountered, TCC should be told, and removed

material should be replaced with clean material. Hall will work with Spillman to further refine the order.

Meeting Minutes:
Corrections were made to the December 15, 2010, minutes. Pratt made a motion to accept December 15, 2010, minutes as amended. Seconded by Jolley. Unanimous vote in favor. Pratt made a motion to accept the minutes of January 19, 2011 as amended. Seconded by Jolley. Erickson abstained. Six votes in favor.

Administrator's Report:
207 Boston Street, Topsfield Fairgrounds
Spillman has received and will distribute a monitoring report for gabions installed on the property.

Ferncroft Country Club, off Coppermine Road, Pond Dredging
Spillman indicated work had stopped on the first pond with the heavy snowfall.

On February 28, Fin Com will discuss the proposed 2012 TCC budget. Spillman and Hall will attend the meeting.

Luther moved to adjourn. Pratt seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Nihan-Demeule

Lisa Nihan-Demeule, Minutes Secretary

Accepted at the TCC meeting on February 23, 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.