

Topsfield Conservation Commission

Minutes of Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Topsfield Library Meeting Room

Present: Cheryl Jolley, Chairperson; Dodds Shamroth, Vice Chairperson; Holger Luther, James Carroll, Jennifer DiCarlo, Lana Spillman, Administrator, Dee Wise, Minutes Secretary.

Absent: None.

Other Attendees: Imad Zrein, P.E., for Topsfield Housing Authority; Laura Krause, DeRosa Environmental; Jeff Nulsen; Dan Mayer, Mayer Trees; Joe Gellar; Josh Holden, National Grid

The meeting was called to Order at 7:05p.m.

HEARINGS:

RDA 2014-05: 42 South Main Street, (Map 41, Lot 129), Walker. The Proposal is to add an addition in the rear of the house in Riverfront Area of Cleaveland Brook; there is currently a concrete patio with steps. Luther read the legal notice and Spillman confirmed receipt of the proof of abutter notification. Spillman also noted that there was a previous OoC for a garage addition that the Walkers have not yet received a CoC for. She also noted that there would be a need for heavy equipment. Spillman made a site visit on December 15 and has no concerns about the project. Luther moved to close the hearing and issue a Negative Determination, Carroll seconded. So Voted Unanimously.

RDA 2014-06: 69 Washington Street, (Map 32, Lot 014), Topsfield Housing Authority /DeVellis Zrein, Inc. This proposal is to improve drainage (stop onsite flooding), including installation of replacement piping, including to two existing outlets from the pipe system and (new) re-grading to form a drainage swale. Luther read the legal notice; proof of abutter notification was received. Zrein stated that Topsfield Housing Authority received funds to renovate all the buildings. This renovation will help to have drainage away from the buildings. Work will be done in spring, early summer. Luther moved to close the hearing, issue a Negative Determination, and waive the fees involved; Carroll seconded. So Voted Unanimously.

REQUESTS:

CoC 307-0606: 64 Parsonage Lane, (Map 24, Lot 042), Wingerup/Hancock Associates. Spillman made a site visit and found the property in compliance with the Order. Luther moved to issue a CoC, Carroll seconded. So Voted Unanimously.

CoC 307-0709: 9 River Road, (Map 57, Lot 002), Hardy/Hancock Associates. Spillman made a site visit on December 16th and found the property in compliance with the Order. Luther moved to issue the CoC, Carroll seconded. So Voted Unanimously.

CoC 307-0712: 11 Kinsman Lane, (Map 31, Lot 079), Murley. Spillman made a site visit on December 29th and found the property in compliance with the Order. Luther moved to issue a CoC, Carroll second. So Voted Unanimously.

Continuation CoC 307-0658: 5 Hickory Lane/Open Space, (Map 50, Lot 039), and 22 Evergreen Lane, (Map 50, Lot 032), Symes Associates, Inc. /Beals Associates, Inc. Spillman made a site visit January 14th and found that the property is still missing the Conservation post placard. A discussion between Spillman and Luther regarding the issuance of the CoC resulted in this item being continued on the next Agenda, January 28th.

RDNI 2015-01: 15 Mansion Drive, (Map 18, Lot 034), ND Landscape, Inc. This proposal is to install fencing in and a gate and for access through Riverfront Area of Mile Brook. Spillman made a site visit on December 31st and stated that the project is behind the house and that they are outside both Riverfront Area and Buffer Zone for the pool and related structures. Subject to usual conditions, Luther moved to issue a Determination of Negative Impact; Carroll seconded. So Voted Unanimously.

OTHER:

ANRAD 307-0720: 57 Perkins Row, (Map 58, Lot 025), New Meadows Development LLC/DeRosa Environmental – discussion with Mike DeRosa. Laura Krause presented for Mike DeRosa. The hearing was continued until April, but DeRosa wanted to discuss with the members their belief that the flagged line will not change and, if it does, the appropriate changes will be made to the plan. Krause repeated the statement that DeRosa made at the site visit, that New Meadows Development intends to file a NOI for the subdivision this winter, prior to issuance of the ORAD. Luther discussed his concerns with the undersized, partially, or totally blocked culvert and the ponded stream being drained. Jolley questioned if the invasives removal plan will still be in place and Laura assured her it would.

3 Beech Place, (Map 50, Lot 037), proposed tree removals and snow storage – discussion with Jeff Nulsen and Dan Mayer. This proposal was in regards to tree removal and snow storage at 3 Beech Place. Spillman made a site visit with Mayer and Nulsen on January 7th to review the ten trees that are being proposed for removal in the Buffer Zone. Spillman determined that a RDA would be the appropriate level of review for this project based on the number of trees and their proximity to wetlands, and the fact that wetland alterations would be likely if certain conditions were not in place. Nulsen wanted to have this project reviewed under a Bylaw RDNI; Spillman advised against this due to the comments above. Nulsen stated that there is a huge white pine with damage on the bottom and he feels that this is a huge threat. Luther questioned if some of the trees were authorized for removal with a past review and felt that trees 6, 7, and 8 might have been included (they were not). The consensus of the TCC is that a RDA is the appropriate application. Spillman suggested that Nulsen file the required paperwork tomorrow to get it on the next agenda.

Rail Trail erosion, in the area of utility pole 125, (Map 17, Lot 017) – discussion with the Rail Trail Committee and National Grid. Luther expressed his conclusion that the water (causing erosion) was coming from Bear Hill Road, northerly side, and the entrance being the middle of the Trail. Geller stated that he spoke with Joe Savage of the Bare Hills Kennel property, who said that the long, straight driveway across the street in Boxford was paved recently, prior to the recent problem. Holden (National Grid) stated that the water was coming off the right away and

causing the erosion. Luther asked what could be done in the perimeter of the Rail Trail. Spillman emphasized that patching the trail or digging deeper swales at the trail would not solve the problem due to the volume and velocity of the water as it reached that location in the December 9th (flooding in the evening) storm. She reviewed that Dave Bond stated that this has only happened 3 times in 30 years, but now the storms are more frequent and more powerful. She believes the source and cause of the large volume and velocity flows is in Boxford, on the west side/upslope of Bare Hill Road. Spillman suggested that Luther and she go along for a site visit when Holden and Geller go.

FY 2016 Budget – updates and vote. Spillman stated that the budget was presented to the Board of Selectman and is being reviewed along with the proposal of reinstating the 3 hours of Admin. Assistant that were lost. That would be an annual amount of ~\$3,000 for the coming fiscal year. Spillman stated that if the Finance Committee requires that one hour be paid from the Bylaw Revolving Fees Fund, she suggests requesting an equal increase in ATM allotment from that fund. Luther suggested an alternative of using the Revolving Fund and raising the cap of the ATM allotment to \$15,000.

Forest Cutting Plan, 184 Ipswich Road (Map 20, Lot 006), & 29 Campmeeting Road, (Map 20, Lot 003) – discussion. This discussion was for the Nutter/MacDougall properties. The Conservation Commission may submit comments if there are activities in or close to the Wetlands Resource Areas. TCC had no comments.

Conservation Properties – discussion. The management of the Town Forest is in the hands of the Selectmen who, Spillman believes have no management plan in place. Spillman stated that the conservation properties managed by the TCC have no names and many of them have trails that can be utilized and also are in need of a management plan. DiCarlo asked how the names were chosen and Spillman stated that sometimes family names, donor names, and sometimes, Indian names are used. The TCC could name the conservation properties under their management.

Tree Planning Committee Workshop, March 7 – update. Flyers were passed out to the members for them to hang up. MaryAnn is taking the reservations for the workshop. At this time there is one person signed up.

February 6 Garden Clubs Expo – TCC participation? Spillman and Jolley think it would be beneficial to set up a table at this event. Jolley, Spillman and Shamroth will all participate.

Munis setup and implementation – updates. Spillman stated that the modification of certain fields would be helpful to the TCC. MaryAnn Tuxbury is seeking user authorization.

MEETING MINUTES:

Luther moved to accept the Meeting Minutes of **October 8, 2014** and **December 17, 2014**; Carroll seconded. So Voted Unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

ATM Warrant – Spillman asked if there were any Bylaw changes to be made. Luther asked about the recent changes to the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations, and Spillman responded that one area of change is that restoration projects are easier.

MACC Conference, February 28 Jolley, Spillman, Shamroth and DiCarlo will be going to the conference.

ADJOURNMENT:

Luther moved, with a seconded by Carroll, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Wise,
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at the TCC meeting on January 28, 2015

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.