

***Topsfield Conservation Commission***  
***Minutes of Wednesday, March 11, 2015***  
Topsfield Library Meeting Room

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

**Absent:** None

**Other Attendees:** Tom Keough, VHB, for National Grid; Ed Rudolph; Laurie Rudolph; Linda Wiley; Bob Wiley; Kevin Johnston; Kimberly Johnston

The meeting was called to Order at 7:06 p.m.

**REQUESTS:**

**CoC307-0695: 224A & 230 Boston Street (Substation Project),** (Map 49, Lots 043 and 045). National Grid/VHB Tom Keough stated that the certification was still valid; the area has been restored on the northwestern bank. There are no obstructions in the flow and the bank is holding up well. Spillman noted that there is still a silt sock there and Keough assured the TCC that it would take care of itself. Luther moved to issue a CoC, Carroll seconded. So Voted Unanimously

**CoC 307-0433: 131 Haverhill Road/Town Beach,** (Map 02, Lot 010 and Map 05, Lot 015), Topsfield Beach Association – duplicate original. Spillman explained that the Selectmen's office could not find the original in the Town Hall. Spillman stated that there will be a duplicate original filed at the Registry of Deeds. Luther made a motion to re-issue a CoC 307-0433, for 131 Haverhill Road/Town Beach for the work as accomplished in 2010, Carroll seconded. So Voted Unanimously

**OTHER:**

**Towne Hill Conservation Area, 255 High Street,** (Map 65, Lot 001) - Discussion. This is an Eagle Scout project in which the trail will be cleared to the certified Vernal Pool at the top on the Conservation Land. Present were the Wileys, on whose property is the easement to the Conservation Area, the Johnstons, whose property abuts the easement, and the Rudolphs, whose land abuts the sliver of the Conservation Area adjoining High Ridge Road. Wiley explained that as a result of the new (at that time) Rivers Protection Act the boundary lines were adjusted and resulted in the easement over the Wiley's driveway. Bob and Linda Wiley shared their concerns with the happenings in the easement and up in the Conservation Area. They stated that there was a lot of trash, i.e. beer cans, cigarettes, syringes, etc. They are concerned that the people that are heading up there are cutting through their property. They feel that with this proposed project it just may bring more. The Johnstons were asked if the easement could cross their property for more direct access from the street, and their concerns are that there could be more water on their property than there is now. Luther stated that there will be water bars used which would slow the process of the water, giving it more time to absorb into the ground elsewhere before it reached the properties. The Johnstons asked if the trail was to be widened and Luther assured them that it was just being cleared. Luther assured the abutters that they would be notified when the Eagle Scouts were going to be up there and informed them that a request may be made for modifications to the easement and

they have the right to decline. Spillman suggested that property boundary markers be put in place to indicate the Conservation Land, and Ed Rudolph said that he was not comfortable with that. Rudolph stated that as the property looks now, you cannot tell that there is Town Conservation Land adjacent to his property and he would like it to stay that way since the people would possibly be passing on his property. Luther stated that the Commission was happy with the abutter's attendance at the meeting so that this discussion could take place and everyone can work together. The discussion will continue at a later date. Luther also mentioned that he will review the issue of access to the conservation parcel with Jim MacDougall who is familiar with the lot and has also worked on mapping the area. MacDougall may have recommendations for alternative access to the site.

**Topsfield Historical Society's Annual Strawberry Festival:** Jolley asked if the TCC will have a table at the festival as they have in the past. Spillman suggested that the senior intern will be able to handle that project. Jolley suggested that the TCC put information out on the table for the public and new residents of Topsfield to know the procedures for any project they have for their homes if there are Resource Areas around.

#### **Tree Planting Committee Workshop, Date and Location Changed**

Spillman gave an update that the Tree Planting Workshop has been changed to March 28th, at the Proctor School Library. Jolley offered that she would take care of the new posters.

#### **Meeting Minutes**

Luther moved to approve the meeting minutes for **February 25, 2015**, as edited and amended; Carroll seconded. So Voted Unanimously

#### **Administrator's Report**

Spillman explained she will be meeting with the new Masco senior intern, Connor Whiffen, to discuss project possibilities.

A discussion took place as to the Annual MACC Conference that Jolley, Spillman and Shamroth attended.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Luther moved to adjourn the meeting; Carroll Seconded. So Voted Unanimously  
The meeting was adjourned at 8:26p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Wise,

Recording Secretary

*Minutes approved at the TCC meeting on March 25, 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.