

***Topsfield Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting February 28, 2018  
Topsfield Library Conference Room***

**Present:** Cheryl Jolley, Chair; Dodds Shamroth, Vice Chair; Jim Carroll, Jennifer DiCarlo, Holger Luther, and Theresa Coffey, Recording Secretary

**Other Attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
Dick Gandt	31 Timber Lane	
Robert Buchsbaum	Mass. Audubon, 87 Perkins Row	
Carol Decker	Mass. Audubon, 87 Perkins Road	
Robert Skeffington	82 North Street	57 Candlewood
L. Skeffington	82 North Street	57 Candlewood

Jolley called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with a quorum present.

**REQUESTS:**

Request to correct an error regarding the reference to lot D2-B in the Bylaw Order of Conditions for 57 Candlewood Drive under MA DEP #307-0638:

Robert Skeffington was present and requested a correction of verbiage in the Bylaw Order of Conditions for 57 Candlewood Drive under MA DEP #307-0638. Skeffington explained that multiple lots were combined to create 57 Candlewood Drive and, therefore, the lot reference in the Bylaw OoC was incorrect. Lot D2-B on the old plan (plan book 336, plan page 68) refers to a small 8,934 square foot parcel that was part of the multiple lots combined to create 57 Candlewood Drive as known today. Skeffington requested that the OoC be corrected to the appropriate designation of the parcel.

*Luther moved to change the designation on the Bylaw Order of Conditions for 57 Candlewood Drive under MA DEP #307-0638 from D2-B to Assessors Map 43, Lot 7 / 57 Candlewood Drive. Carroll seconded.*

*Discussion:* DiCarlo asked for confirmation that Gaffney has reviewed the subject OoC. Jolley confirmed that Gaffney has reviewed the OoC and maps and also consulted with the Assessor and previous Conservation Administrator. All were in agreement that this change is appropriate.

*The vote was unanimous in favor.*

**HEARINGS:**

**Continuation NoI 307-0761: 26 Coppermine Road**, (Map 74, Lot 001 & 002), Lopes/Williams & Sparages – pool, septic, addition, pump chamber, and landscape improvements.

*Luther moved to continue the Hearing for NoI 307-0761, 26 Coppermine Road to March 14, 2018 upon request of the applicant. Carroll seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.*

**RDA 2018-01: 87 Perkins Row**, (Map 51, Lot 21), Mass. Audubon – Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary removal of two sections of mostly non-native trees adjacent to an existing field as part of a wildlife habitat enhancement project.

Luther read the legal notice. [Abutter notification is not required as the project location is more than 100' from any abutters.]

Robert Buchsbaum, Regional Scientist for Mass. Audubon, presented an overview of the proposed project to remove two sections of hemlock trees. This project is part of their regional management plan and they have received a grant for this work. The grant expires June 30, 2018 so the work must be completed by that date. The hemlocks are non-native and have reached the end of useful life. Carol Decker, Mass. Audubon, confirmed that access to the hemlock grove for the tree removal would be via the Drumlin Trail.

Luther expressed his concern that an RDA was not the correct application for this project. As 22% of the work would be done in a resource area, a waiver would be required. Discussion on this subject continued with various options explored, including taking the 22% out of the project or filing a NoI and then requesting a waiver to do the work in the resource area. Given the time pressure presented by the grant to Mass Audubon, the delay would jeopardize funding.

The option of removing the trees under the TCC Tree Policy was discussed. Luther recommended that the Commission proceed to review the application pursuant to the Tree Policy as the trees are clearly eligible thereunder, but the resource areas would have to be replanted with some native species of trees or bushes to preserve approximately the present environment. The guidelines of the policy were reviewed to determine how the requirements could be met under the proposed plan. While the TCC was in agreement that this was a viable option under a modified plan, DiCarlo suggested that revisions be considered for the Tree Policy. The policy was drafted for residential properties not for proposals dealing with conservation areas. As the number of the town's conservation properties continues to grow, the TCC will be faced with this situation in the future.

Jolley stated she will ask Gaffney to set up a site visit and explore this option further with the applicant.

*Luther moved to continue the hearing for RDA 2018-01: 87 Perkins Row until March 14, 2018 at the request of the applicant. Carroll seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.*

**MEETING MINUTES:** None

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

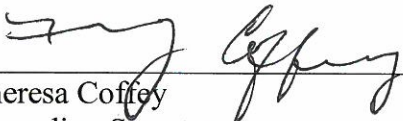
- Jolley reported that notice was received from Mass. DOT of work that will be done on the Rt. 1 bridge over the Ipswich River at the Fairgrounds. Gaffney will contact Mass. DOT for further information and let them know that they need to request a filing exemption in writing.
- Mosquito spraying exemption item was tabled to next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*Luther moved to adjourn. Carroll seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.*

The next meeting will be held March 14, 2018 at 7:00 pm, Topsfield Library Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Theresa Coffey  
Recording Secretary

*minutes approved at the TCC meeting on 3/28/2018*

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.

**Documents used at or for the meeting:**

Letter of Request related to Bylaw Order of Conditions for 57 Candlewood Drive, dated February 16, 2018 by Robert C. Skeffington

RDA 2018-01: 87 Perkins Row

- Complete RDA application with attachments

MassDOT Application to Mass. DEP for Water Quality Certification for Bridge Repairs of Bridge T-06-003, dated February 16, 2018