

Topsfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Wednesday, April 22, 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: Jeanne Li, Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary (IRWS); Carol Decker, IRWS; Dick Gandt, Selectman.

The meeting was called to Order at 7:10 p.m.

HEARINGS:

Continuation ANRAD 307-0720: 57 Perkins Row, (Map 58, Lot 025). New Meadows Development LLC/DeRosa Environmental (Item was continued from 12/17/14 meeting.) Spillman stated that she inspected the wetland flags on the property with Mike DeRosa. She added that DeRosa went before the Planning Board again and they want another plan with more calculations. This is just a preliminary plan. Spillman suggested that a common driveway might be more efficient, since they would not have to abide by subdivision rules and regulations.

Luther made a motion to accept the request for a continuation of the ANRAD; Carroll seconded. So Voted Unanimously

REQUESTS:

CoC 307-0588: 20 Aaron Drive, (Map 12, Lot 008), Peacock.

Spillman explained that the Amended Order has not yet been recorded at the Registry of Deeds and the two Conservation posts with markers need to be installed. Luther made a motion to delay approval of this request, considering that the Amended Order has not been recorded, Carroll seconded. So Voted Unanimously

67 Perkins Row, (Map 59, Lot 007)

Spillman stated that there was a lot going on at this property. She met with the prospective buyers and believes that they have a lot of good ideas for the property. The Wetlands Resource Area boundaries have to be verified. The basement is ~2 feet below estimated high groundwater. Luther stated that the septic system is a great concern and that they buyers should consult with an expert. Spillman explained that although the Board of Health approved the septic system, there are multiple resource areas on and adjacent to the property and there has been no official required review of resource area boundaries by the Conservation Commission. Spillman stated that the Intermittent Stream flags (placed by DeRosa Environmental) look good and that some of the Ipswich River MAHW flags may be moved down a couple feet. The wet swale nearest the proposed septic system needs to be reviewed further and may extend farther upslope.

CoC 307-0643: 16 Wildes Road, (Map 08, Lot 004), New Meadows Development/Atty. Jill Mann.

Spillman stated that this is a condominium development. Luther voted to delay the request for consideration to the May 13 meeting, at the written request of the applicant's attorney, due to technical issues being resolved; Carroll seconded. So Voted Unanimously

CoC 307-0635: 236 Perkins Row, (Map 35, Lot 003), Nesky/Guilbalt.

Spillman stated that she sent along an e-mail explaining that they needed everything submitted by noon today. Luther added that he went by the property and the cedar posts look great. Luther moved to issue the CoC; Carroll seconded. So Voted Unanimously

OTHER:

OoC 307-0684: 87 Perkins Row/IRWS, (Map 51, Lot 021), Carol Decker, Director, IRWS, annual update of MA Audubon Sanctuary activities.

Decker stated that there were many things going on at the Sanctuary. She added that Jeanne Li has been doing many hours of volunteer work with Richard, the property management worker. Decker stated that Proctor had lots of trails through these properties and that they provide access and education. In the early 90s the beavers started to move in and change the environment, so the solution was to build beaver deceivers. However, Decker stated that sometimes they do not work as they should. For the most part they have been able to keep the water levels down. Decker explained that Proctor brought in non-native hearty Kiwi, which at first was beautiful but in the past years has become a problem. She added that in many ways the Kiwi looks like bittersweet and is very invasive. There is also Swallowwort on the trails and the students who go through commented that it smells like rotten potatoes. Decker stated that Jeanne has been taking pictures at the intersection of the waterfowl and another trail, where the invasive Glossy Buckthorn is; she has been stem treating all the stems and in the follow up pictures you can see that the native plants are starting to come into the area. Buckthorns are a shrub and are very invasive. Decker stated that the birds are coming back, Blue Birds, Tree Swallows. Decker stated that there was a nasty grass found and was sent off to a botanical and was found to be *glyceria maxima*; this too is a very invasive grass. The goal of the Sanctuary is to eradicate this grass. The real threat is gone, but it must still stay on the maintenance list. She discussed management of other invasive plants. The Waterfall Pond Trail is open and they would like to put some loam down on that trail. The OoC was issued April 10, 2012 and, with the MA Permit Extension Act, expires in 2019. Decker ended by stating that the status of the Sanctuary is good but a little wet now.

Meeting Minutes

Luther moved to approve the **March 25, 2015** minutes as amended; Carroll seconded. So Voted Unanimously

Administrator's Report:

- Spillman stated that there are 3 Eagle Scouts, possibly a 4th to start their projects as soon as May. Two Masco seniors, Connor Whiffen and Mike Caputo, will be interns in the

Conservation Department the month of May. Spillman stated that the interns could possibly certify a Vernal Pool.

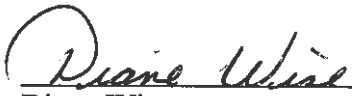
- Spillman suggested that since the snow has melted, it would be good to follow up with a site visit on the Rail Trail, where the significant erosion occurred. She will coordinate with Joe Geller and National Grid.
- DiCarlo asked about the Tree Planting workshop; Spillman explained that MaryAnn talked to Paul Harder, but he only had one person lined up.

ADJOURNMENT:

Luther moved to adjourn the meeting; Carroll Seconded.
So Voted Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Wise,
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at the TCC meeting on May 13, 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.