

PEPPERELL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes – February 19, 2008

The Pepperell Conservation Commission (PCC) held a regularly scheduled meeting under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, MGL Ch. 131, §40 and the Pepperell Wetlands Protection By-Law. The meeting was held in the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Elliott presiding, Moody, Rand, Rice, Sauer, and Steeves; member absent: Tzanoudakis.

A Request for an Extension for DEP File # 259-645 for 73B River Road, due to expire on March 9th, had been received. The Order was for construction of a driveway only since the new house and septic system were both outside of ConsCom jurisdiction. Fisher said that the applicant had told her that the driveway work was complete, but since the area is snow-covered, she could not check its stabilization. On a motion from Elliott, seconded by Rand, all

VOTED: to issue a 2-year Extension, as requested.

Hancock Associates, working as a representative of the proponents of the Emerson Village 40B LIP at 196 Nashua Road, had requested an informal site walk with the Commission prior to submitting Notices of Intent. Fisher said that she had sent them a copy of the Informal Discussions Policy. She said that with further discussion she had determined that the future applicant wanted to know if they needed to re-do a full wetlands delineation. The Commissioners agreed that the wetland flags should be in place and that a review of the line should proceed in the usual way after Notices of Intent are filed.

7:10 p.m. Public Meeting re RDA filed by DPW Superintendent Robert Lee for the construction of a parking lot at 35 River Road

The property referred to in the RDA is owned by the Nashoba Conservation Trust. The Highway Division had agreed to build the proposed parking lot. Roger Goscombe, a member of the Nashoba Conservation Trust Board of Directors, attended the meeting as a representative of the Trust. Under the Pepperell Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Commission determined that the project area involves BVW, and the proposed activity is not excepted from the 50' setback requirement.

Goscombe said that the location for the proposed parking lot is at or near the former location of a barn, across River Road from the Grace Baptist Church. He said that the parking lot would be more than 50 feet from the wetland. He said that he had spoken to the Gardners who presently farm the field. They had no problem with the location although they requested that nothing be done which would limit their equipment access in the field, and they said that neither trash nor dog waste should be allowed in their farm fields. Goscombe also said that this location would allow a new trail across the narrowest section of wetland swale to connect to existing trails in the woods. Rice asked how the Trust would keep people from walking within the farm field. Goscombe said that the Trust was planning a split rail fence around the parking lot with an opening to establish the trail entrance, similar to the lot and fence at Nissitissit Meadows Conservation Land.

Rice said that the wetland flags have not been maintained within the field and asked how it could be assured that the parking lot would be more than 50 feet from the wetlands. Fisher said that Peter Shattuck had asked that the first step toward constructing the parking lot be a site visit by Goscombe, Fisher, and him. At that site visit the limit of construction would be staked. Goscombe said that the Trust would be responsible for an erosion control barrier, either hay bales or silt fence. He asked the Commissioners to allow either since he would be looking for donations or would like to be flexible. The Commissioners agreed. On a motion from Elliott, seconded by Rand, all

VOTED: to issue a Negative 3 Determination with Special Conditions as discussed above.

Other Business

Upon a motion by Elliott, seconded by Rand, with Moody abstaining, it was

VOTED: to approve the minutes of January 22, 2008 as drafted.

Rand said that the Nashoba Conservation Trust had been discussing the possible confusion between the names of their new Keyes parcel on River Road and the Keyes Conservation Land on Oak Hill Street. The Commissioners agreed that it would not be appropriate to change the name of the Conservation Land as a way to prevent confusion since it had been named to honor George Keyes by a previous Commission. Other possible methods for differentiation, which the Trust could use, were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen L. Fisher