

PEPPERELL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes – March 4, 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 Tzanoudakis; member absent: Steeves.

Since there were no appointments on the agenda for the March 18th meeting, the Commissioners decided to cancel the meeting.

Kath Nelson of the Nashua River Watershed Association had contacted the office to ask if the Commissioners would be interested in a presentation (maximum of ½ hour) describing the state of streams and rivers in Pepperell after the coming water quality monitoring season. The Commissioners agreed that they would be interested, encouraging the presenters to include historical information where available.

7:10 p.m. Public Meeting re RDA filed by DPW Superintendent Robert Lee for the 2008-2009 Sewer Extension Project on Brookline, Hollis, and Mill Streets and Nashua Road

Bob Lee attended the meeting to explain the project. Under the Pepperell Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Commission determined that the project area involves BVW, and the proposed activity is excepted from the 50' setback requirement as a Limited Project. Lee presented plans for the project showing that the sewer lines would extend from Hadley Road to Hollis Street on Nashua Road, from 200' from the intersection with Hollis Street to the south end of the Kaiser farm on Brookline Street, from Groton Street for 500' south on Hollis Street, from Nashua Road to Hadley Road also on Hollis Street, from Nashua Road to Hollis Street on Mill Street, and from Nashua Road for 350' south on Mill Street. Lee said that all sewer lines would be installed within the existing paved way on each street. Fisher noted that there were several places where the work was adjacent to BVW and would be within the buffer zone and that the work near Nashua Road and Hollis Street was in the Riverfront. Lee said that there would be several culvert crossings, but that the sewer line would be installed either above or below the culverts with no disturbance to the culverts.

Lee said that the bidders for the contract to install the sewer would be required to have 50-100 haybales available to control any possible erosion or sedimentation into adjacent wetland. He also said that silt sacks will be required on existing catch basins. Rice asked if the houses to be put on the sewer were also on Town water. Lee said yes. Elliott asked if the project was within Estimated Habitat. The Commissioners examined the Priority and Estimated Habitats map and determined that a small area on Nashua Road near the Nissitissit might be. On a motion from Elliott, seconded by Rand, all

VOTED: to issue a Negative 2, 3 & 6 Determination with conditions as described above.

Other Business

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

VOTED: to approve the minutes of February 19, 2008 as drafted.

Fisher reported that several members of the Nashoba Conservation Trust Board of Directors had been having second thoughts about locating a parking lot for the new Keyes land in the field at 35 River Road, as had been approved at the previous Commission meeting. Fisher showed plans and photographs she had taken of an area on the new Town-owned lot at 48 Elm Street, which could be a parking area. The area is outside of Riverfront and BVW buffer zone and would provide a much closer and easier access to existing trails on the Keyes land, both the Town-owned and Trust-owned lots, than the River Road location. The Commission agreed that Fisher should pursue this option since the Town has to demonstrate that parking has been created for access to the Keyes land before the Self Help grant money can be reimbursed.

The Commission discussed and amended a draft memo to the Finance Committee that Fisher had prepared about the Conservation Department FY 09 budget. The Commissioners decided to offer to apply some money from the Wetlands Protection Act Filing Fees account toward the Administrator's salary to help with the Town-wide budget crunch. Elliott and Tzanoudakis both said that they did not want to commit to doing this for more than the next year. Sauer suggested that the amount to be applied should be an average of the difference between the amount the Commission spent and the amount it received in filing fees over the past 4 years.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen L. Fisher