

PEPPERELL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes–January 20, 2009

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, and Rice; members absent: Tzanoudakis, Sauer, and Steeves.

Richard Ferrero had submitted a Request for an Extension of the Order of Conditions for 148 South Road, DEP File # 259-632, which would expire in March. Ferrero attended the meeting and explained that he had been unable to sell the lot, and no activity had begun. Elliott asked if the wetland flags were still visible. Fisher said that most were visible during last spring's CR monitoring visit. Elliott noted that the flags would need to be checked again, and rehung if necessary, before any work could begin. On a motion from Elliott, seconded by Rand, all

VOTED: to issue a 3-year Extension.

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

VOTED: to approve the minutes of January 6, 2009 as drafted.

7:10 p.m. Public Hearing re NOI filed by the Pepperell Conservation Commission for the construction of a walking trail at 48 Elm Street, Assessor's Map 34, Parcel 22
(Note: The correct street number for this parcel is 52 Elm Street)

Eagle Scout candidate Christopher Schott attended the hearing. Under the Pepperell Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Commission determined that the project area involves BVW, but the proposed activity is excepted from the 50' setback requirement as an activity that would have no effect on resource area values (2h) since no soil disturbance is proposed. Schott explained a map he had drawn, showing his proposal to build a trail to connect the parking lot on Elm Street to the existing trail system. He said that the new trail would cross 108 feet of BVW. In the most saturated areas, he planned to construct about 5 log bridges consisting of notched cedar log bases with planking for the walking surface. The bridges would lie on the soil surface. To cross the small channel on the far edge of wetland, Schott proposed a similar bridge with stone pillar supports.

Elliott noted that he, Christopher and Russ Schott, Rice, Sauer, Tzanoudakis, and Fisher had done a site visit to the area on November 22, 2008 and concluded that the proposed location for the trail connection was the best alternative.

Rice asked how long the log bridges could be expected to last. Schott said that he did not know an exact time, but that he was using Northern white cedar, which is a rot-resistant wood. Elliott asked if Schott was using planks or boards. Schott said planks, which would also be cedar. Schott and Elliott calculated that the cost of the planking would likely be \$200-300. Elliott said that the Commission generally agrees to pay expenses for Eagle Projects.

Elliott suggested that dry weather would be the best time for construction, probably not until summer. Schott agreed and said that that schedule would be no problem since he was not close to his 18th birthday. Rand asked if the Nashoba Conservation Trust had been informed. Fisher said that the Trust had been sent an abutter notification. Rice suggested that during construction Fisher or some other qualified person should be asked to identify invasive, exotic shrubs so that they could be removed from the area of the new trail. Schott agreed. On a motion from Elliott, seconded by Rand, all

VOTED: to issue an Order of Conditions and to authorize a reimbursement to Christopher Schott of expenses for this project, up to \$400.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen L. Fisher