

PEPPERELL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes – April 7, 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, Rice, Sauer, and Steeves; member absent: Tzanoudakis.

A Request for an Extension for Edward Hayward's project at 13-23 Shawnee Road, DEP File #259-672, had been received. Fisher had visited the site and reported that although the new building on site had not been started, the changes to the paved parking area around existing building and the removal of the storm drain that was an outlet into the brook had been done. She said that the relocation of the dumpster and shed and the discontinuing of lawn mowing in the 50' no-disturb area, all of which were dependent on the changes to the paved parking area, had not yet been done. The Commissioners decided that, since the Order did not expire until July, they would request that Hayward make those changes before an extension was issued.

[Later in the meeting Jack Visniewski, Hayward's representative, stopped in and asked the status of the Extension Request. He asked that a letter be sent to Hayward detailing the Commission's requests.]

7:10 p.m. Discussion with Alex MacPhee re placement of duck boxes on Conservation Land for an Eagle Scout project

Alex MacPhee and his father, Craig MacPhee, attended the meeting. A. MacPhee said that he would like to place 10 to 12 wood duck boxes in town, including some to be located on Conservation Land. He had built a prototyped box, which he demonstrated for the Commissioners. He said that he had gotten the plans for the box from the MassWildlife website, but he had several questions that would require more research, including the size of the entry hole, predator controls, and appropriate locations for installing the boxes. Fisher asked if A. MacPhee had been able to research Dave Armstrong, who has been placing wood duck boxes around Town for several years. MacPhee said no. Rice suggested that he also speak to Pat Huckery or Eric Amati at the Fisheries & Wildlife NE District Office.

Elliott asked what kind of wood he would use. A. MacPhee said the prototype is pine, but he would like to use cedar so the boxes would last longer. He estimated the boxes would then be as much as \$60 or \$70 each. Elliott also asked what type of support the boxes would be mounted on. A. MacPhee said the photos show them on a steel pole. How far into the water the poles should be placed and how high off the ground the boxes should be located were also discussed. Fisher noted that A. MacPhee needed more information before going ahead. She said that she would work with him to get the project going.

Elliott said that the Commission had supported other Eagle Projects up to \$400 in the past, also saying that it was sometimes possible to get donations from building supply companies. A.

MacPhee said that he was looking for donations already. On a motion from Elliott, seconded by Rand, all

VOTED: to support the project with up to \$400, if needed.

7:20 p.m. Informal Discussion with Peter Antosh re proposed changes to construction plans for 30-32 Nashua Road, DEP File #259-709

Peter Antosh, representative of the Dees, attended the meeting. He had submitted a letter asking to make a change to the Final Approved Plan for this Order, substituting a fabric-lined, stone-filled swale for the grassed swale shown on the Plans. Elliott asked Antosh why the idea would be better. Antosh said that the Dees thought that it would be hard to keep the grass growing and they were concerned about gravel from the unpaved driveway being plowed into the swale along with snow during the winter. Elliott pointed out that the stone swale would be harder to clean and to maintain than a grass swale.

Elliott asked if the Planning Board had been consulted since this is a common driveway. Antosh said no. Elliott said that he felt that this substitution would change the drainage characteristics of the project. It was the consensus of the Commission that if the Dees want to pursue this option, they would have to file for an Amendment to their Order of Conditions as well as seek Planning Board approval.

Other Business

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

VOTED: to approve the minutes of March 3, 2009 as drafted.

Sauer brought up the warrant article for the Annual Town Meeting. It would appropriate funds equal to the By-Law filing fees collected in the past year to the Conservation Fund. Sauer asked the other Commissioners to decide how they would like to deal with the article. On a motion from Sauer, seconded by Rand, all

VOTED: to withdraw the article or take no action on it on Town Meeting floor.

Sauer asked Fisher to ask the Finance Committee not to comment, "Not Recommended" on this article, but to say that their recommendation would be given at the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen L. Fisher