

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MARCH 8, 2017

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, Lisa Oden, Karen Miller, David McTigue, Kleta Dudley (SoRLAC Representative), Lori Rautiola

ABSENT: Jack Messe, Matt Oliveira

The meeting was called to order at the Town Office at 7:30 p.m.

The minutes of the January 11, 2017 meeting were reviewed and following corrections were made: Fourth paragraph, change the abbreviation from "Our" to ArcGIS". Fifth paragraph under water resources change the word "as" to "to point out". Bob made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Lisa seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Signs: David noted the signage is relatively inexpensive for the New Ipswich Mountain parcel and Bob added to move forward and order the sign.

New Business: The Commission conversed about a site visit to Ashburnham Road which is scheduled for March 18, 2017. The property belongs to Nathan and Danielle Sikkila. Mr. Chris Guida of Fieldstone Land Consultants was present to represent Mr. and Mrs. Sikkila. He gave a brief overview of the land and stated Mr. Sikkila would like to cross the wetlands to access his property and utilize the material to put in a driveway for a barn/paddock. Mr. Sikkila has applied for a variance from the Zoning Board to cross the wetlands and a special exception to remove the material and use it on the driveway and for the building of his new house. The Commission will visit the site on March 18, 2017.

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Thomforde, 50 Binney Hill Road, voiced their concerns regarding the former landfill on Page Hill Road. Mr. Thomforde noted he has two wells on his property, one shallow and one deep. They use the deep well for drinking water but have used the shallow well for about 30 years and still use it to water gardens etc. The shallow well was last tested about 30 years ago. Bob reported the Commission will be sending letters accompanied by a well survey to homeowners in the vicinity of the former landfill.

Mr. Ed Rogers was present to represent Mr. Dennis Alix. Mr. Rogers gave a brief overview of the property which recently had a lot line adjustment and received approval from the Zoning Board of Adjustment to cross a small section of wetlands to put in a driveway to access his land. The wetlands impact is 950 square feet. The driveway would be wide enough to have a shoulder which allows for more vegetation to stop the run off of salt/sand used on the driveway. The Commission will visit the site this week.

Members continued the discussion on the Page Hill dump site. Karen questioned the funds for the well testing project because they are private wells. She recalled the Commission not being able to test the

wells when the NED pipeline was threatening the wells. Bob responded that the Commission was going to expend more money on a natural resource inventory along the pipeline route than on three or four well water tests. David added the NED was a third party. Karen stated her concern was why the Selectmen did not approve the money for the water tests and Bob responded it is not in their jurisdiction.

Karen mentioned having some pamphlets available at the Town Office for townspeople to read on well water and Bob commented the NHDES already has material available on their website. Kleta commented Wilton is having an Earth Day Fair and stated having a booth with information on private wells/groundwater may be a good idea.

The Members discussed the survey that will be sent to homeowners in the down gradient area of the Page Hill dump. Some changes were made to the survey and letter. Criteria for candidates to have wells tested were discussed. Bob noted the Commission has enough money allocated to do four well tests and suggested spending more and have the steams tested as well. Members agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola