

CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

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

ABSENT: Jack Messe

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

The minutes of the August 10, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Matt made a motion to approve the minutes. Lisa seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

**Signs:** Bob mentioned making a project spreadsheet for the Conservation land signs to show which ones need to be made and which ones are complete and David agreed to do so.

**Water Resources:** A document was distributed pointing out the definitions of an aquifer and ground water. Bob noted the words aquifer and groundwater are interchangeable and that the aquifer holds the groundwater. Also he spoke with someone at NHDES, and questioned what the regulations are for the aquifers. According to the State, there are no regulations in place for the aquifer as there are for groundwater. The aquifers are mapped specifically for finding large groundwater supplies in the area for future use. Bob added there are no Town zoning regulations in place to protect aquifers. Bob stated in reference to the ordinances, the Commission should target the aquifers rather than the groundwater protection, since the State already covers the groundwater protection. The Town zoning regulations which control land use are what would protect the aquifers.

Members looked over the map of aquifers in Town. David stated when singling out the stratified drift aquifers it is very special niche and virtually no one in town gets their water out of them, maybe just a handful of people with shallow dug wells. He also noted to keep in mind if we are putting the stratified drift aquifers on the map it really is not doing anything for the average person in town now but protection for future water supplies.

Karen added upon meeting with the Planning Board, they would like to know the purpose of this ordinance. The Planning Boards questioned if the ordinance is going to give more protection than the State regulation. If so, this would need to be defined by the wording of the ordinance and maps of what exactly we are trying to protect. Karen also mentioned the wellheads are already protected by the State. The Board conversed about the ground water protection ordinance and the protections of the aquifers and Bob stated there is already a ground water protection ordinance in place and the focus should be on the protection of aquifers. Matt stated he disagreed and that his focus has been on the groundwater which people drink and by taking care of the groundwater this covers the aquifer. He added if you only cover the aquifer, then you are not protecting the groundwater.

Karen questioned if this was an issue for the Conservation Commission or the Planning/Zoning Boards. Bob stated aquifers are essentially groundwater, they are just a specialized form and feels the Commission should focus on the aquifers because we have the ability now to regulate their future use through zoning. Bob agreed to talk with the Planning Board to discuss their thoughts on this ordinance.

David mentioned changing the name of the working ordinance as the aquifers are part of the groundwater and protecting these specific aquifers in the long term for the public good. Many people might think they want their well protected now and that is already being done by the State. He also mentioned it would be a good idea to look at the surrounding town's ordinances with public water sources because those towns are protecting it now.

It was agreed to not rush and submit the ordinance this year as there is a groundwater protection ordinance in place already, and this would give ample time to strengthen and/or draft a new ordinance with new regulations to protect the aquifers.

Lisa and Matt gave an update of the stream buffer ordinance. Bob suggested to change the verbiage in the ordinance in order to shorten it.

**New Business:** Bob noted he saw some pictures online of someone flying a drone over Pratt Pond and thought it may be good idea to see how much a person would charge to fly one over certain conservation lands.

The annual meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola, Secretary