

Chelmsford Conservation Commission
Town of Chelmsford
50 Billerica Rd. Chelmsford, Ma 01824
Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2020
Approved July 7, 2020

Meeting Location: 50 Billerica Rd., Room 205, Chelmsford, Ma 01824

Members Present: David McLachlan-Chairman Jack Souza, William Vines, Marc Gibbs, Chris Garrahan, Karl Bischoff, Chris Tymula

Members Absent:

Others Present: Katharine Guertin-Conservation Agent,

Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chairman McLachlan.

All documents referenced in these minutes are available for review at the Community Development Office, 50 Billerica Rd., Chelmsford Town Offices Building. This meeting was audio and hand recorded via the Recording Secretary.

Open Session / Citizen Concerns

Vivian Merrill announced that CCTV Director Pete Pedulla invited the Commission to a screening of “Troubled Waters”, a documentary of the Merrimack River, being held on January 24, 2020, at 7:00PM at the Chelmsford Center of the Arts. The event is free, there will be light hors d’oeuvres, and several speakers.

Regulatory Hearings

**Request for Determination of Applicability- new
15 Roberts Street, garage and driveway construction**

Legal Notice read.

Hooshmand Afshar spoke for the applicant, Gail Gardetto. The parcel is just over an acre, and most of the property is within the 50 foot buffer zone. The resource area is Russell Mill Pond. Work is to build a 24 x 24 garage and driveway extension. There will be a walkway from the side door of the new garage to the front of the house. Material storage area and silt fence and erosion controls were shown. The proposed garage is farther from the wetland than the existing house. The garage has about 5 feet in the 50 foot buffer. The lot is very clean. Both existing sheds will remain in their current locations. The garage will have a foundation; excess material will be taken offsite.

Motion: by Mr. Garrahan to approve a Request for Determination for 15 Roberts St., with a Negative 3 Determination and no Special Conditions. Seconded by Mr. Gibbs. **Motion carries, unanimous.**

Discussion

Land Management

Cranberry Bog Dam

Mr. McLachlan reported that Oxbow Associates has done site work and is preparing the Notice of Intent, which could be heard in February.

If the Notice of Intent is approved, work could be completed by the end of summer.

The budget is about \$25,000.00; most of the work will be tree removal, and some filling of holes with rip rap.

Town of Carlisle and the Water District will be notified of the Hearing.

Mr. McLachlan will speak with the Town Manager on whether a warrant article will be needed at Spring Town Meeting for the funding of the project.

Oxbow is looking at environmental impacts from wildlife also.

Maintaining the dam improves the vista, which will complement what Carlisle is thinking about doing on their side of the reservation. Future maintenance can be done via COSS to be keep the growth down.

Motion: by Mr. Vines to proceed to direct Oxbow Associates to complete and file the Notice of Intent with the Conservation Agent for the Cranberry Bog Dam improvements. Seconded by Mr. Gibbs. **Motion carries, unanimous.**

Cranberry Bog Subcommittee Report

Caroline Hampton, Iva Mooney and Mr. McLachlan were the Chelmsford representative at this meeting, along with two representatives from Carlisle.

Three options being considered by Carlisle for the future of the bog are turning the bog into a hayfield, maintain it as open vista and meadow, or to make it a site for endangered species and clear it of invasive plants.

Attendees for Carlisle hope to have this resolved in time for their Spring 2021 Town Meeting. The town also wants to maintain their water rights at Hart Pond.

Downstream from the bog is an invasion of beaver which are causing flooding problems. Carlisle says they are working on resolving these problems.

Discussions about the Mill Stream trust were mentioned. There have been no new developments. The bog and Hart Pond feed into the Mill Pond.

36 Turnpike Road letter

A draft letter was provided to the Commission.

No vote was taken at the meeting of October 22, 2019 to stop the fines from accruing. The total amount of fines accrued to date is \$18,900.00. The letter basically states that if there are no further problems on this property through October 21, 2021, the Commission may consider waiving some or all of the fines.

Motion: by Mr. Vines to suspend the accumulation of fines for 36 Turnpike Rd. as of October 22, 2019, and to send the letter regarding disposition of the fines to the property owner, Sam Poulton, and Pat Flaherty. Seconded by Mr. Tymula. Mr. Souza and Mr. Gibbs opposed, all others in favor. **Motion carries.**

Continual Business

Agent's Report

Paperwork was signed as needed.

Mr. Gibbs requested a site visit to Cushing Place, as the work around the brook and the walk was not completed properly, in his opinion. Mrs. Guertin will pull the report and minutes, to review further.

Mr. Souza noted that the parking lot behind Fishbones Restaurant has had some invasive plant removal. The parking lot behind Max and Leo's Artisan Pizza is in poor condition.

There may not be a meeting on January 21, 2019, as no new applications have been received.

Approve Minutes

There were no minutes to approve this evening.

Adjourn

Next Meetings

January 21st

February 4th

February 18th

Motion: by Mr. Garrahan to adjourn the meeting at 7:42PM. Seconded by Mr. Vines. **Motion carries, unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,
Vivian W. Merrill

Supporting documents:

- Application for Request for Determination
- Draft letter for 36 Turnpike Rd.