

SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
December 21, 2009
Approved at 1/11/10 meeting.

PRESENT: Jack Fleming, Chair; Brad Allen, Dennis Swartwout, Jim Canning, Janice Stone, Conservation Administrator.

7:00 PM OPEN FORUM Opportunity for residents to come in and ask questions, discuss wetland concerns with the Conservation Commission. No decisions will be made at this time, all items will be taken under advisement. Individual time may be limited by the number of persons waiting to speak. No one present to speak.

7:02 PM OLD & NEW BUSINESS: Jim reviewed the bills payable, and made a motion to approve payment. Brad seconded, and all voted in favor. Budget and Goals for FY2011. Commissioners reviewed and discussed the budget and goals pages for the Commission budget and Conservation Land Fund, especially about including a payment of \$2,000. from the Wetland Filing Fee account again for part of Janice's salary. This will be another tough financial year, and the Appropriations Committee will likely request this amount again, if not included. Jim suggested making special note of the donation when submitting the budget this year. Janice will mention it specifically in the email to the Selectboard and Appropriations, and .include something about it not being automatic each year in the submittal. Regarding the goal of completing the Regulations, Commissioners stated this was very important. They suggested Janice leave off the goal to complete one of the draft *Comprehensive Plan* "Recommended Actions" until the plan was finalized, and to give more time to the Regulations. Jim mentioned the need to consider the importance of groundwater protection in the *Comprehensive Plan*. Updates. Janice mentioned that an *eagle scout* candidate is looking for a project. Lin Pickle has sent him some ideas on conservation land (cleanup and trails). No news on the *McCray APR* appraisal. DPW/MA Highway will be repaving *Route 33* next year. Janice told DPW it fell under their General Maintenance Orders, as long as they stay in existing footprint. *Route 47* has been designated a National Scenic Byway, the first in MA. Janice will send information to the Selectboard to advertise for a new *Conservation Commissioner* and 3 Associates.

7:15 PM PUBLIC MEETING on a Request for Determination filed by the *South Hadley Electric Light Department* (SHELD) for repair and maintenance of the electrical utility lines and poles from Pine Street to Brainerd Street. Wayne Doerpholz and Mark Beaugard were present from SHELD. Wayne described the proposed work, to replace the 22 existing poles with 19 taller ones that will span the stream and some of the other low areas. They are working in the existing right-of-way, not expanding the width and number of lines. They will be making improvements to the poles and insulators. They are doing the work to meet new national safety standards, for insurance purposes. The 65' poles will be at least 18' in the ground. The Commission asked what they would be doing to prevent erosion and sedimentation into the wetlands and stream. Wayne explained the cost of working in winter would be \$100,000 because of labor costs in cold conditions. They will therefore be working in the summer, when it is relatively dry. He is hiring New England Environmental to monitor the work, and will keep people out of the stream and refueling away from the site etc. Brad asked if there was still going

to be the same amount of tree cutting and clearing as approved in the Order of Conditions. Wayne said no, just what is needed to maintain safety distances from the present line. The taller poles will mean that less trimming should be necessary, and are designed to keep large birds such as eagles from electrocuting themselves. They will be starting the trimming this winter. Jim made a motion to approve the project with a negative determination # 5, with the electrical utility maintenance exemption. Dennis seconded, and all voted approval.

7:35 PM OLD & NEW BUSINESS, continued. Continuing the discussion of budgets, Dennis suggested Janice get the latest figure in the *Farm Tax account* through the Ledges. Janice will ask for that. Dennis made the motion to accept the minutes for November 9, 2009. Brad seconded, and all approved. Minutes of November 30 were not approved because they had not been reviewed by all present. They will be on the next agenda. Updates. Janice spoke with Jim Reidy about *beaver* removal at a few different sites in town. If the DPW is willing to state that it is necessary to keep the outlet structure clear at Titus Pond, and need to remove the beaver to do so, then Commission will agree with removal. Jim has found a trapper willing to take payment in pelts. He needs to map the areas of concern and submit it to the Commission if there will be dam breaching. If only trapping, he does not need Conservation approval except on conservation land such as Titus Pond. Janice mentioned other news about future filing for *alternative energy* production at the landfill. They are looking at methane gas and solar, and the structures will be in the buffer zone. *Keystone training* at Harvard Forest. Is anyone interested? Kristin Stueber might be, took the informational material home.

7:45 PM PUBLIC MEETING on a Request for Determination filed by J.N. Duquette & Son Construction for construction of a single family house in the buffer zone at 30 & 34 East Red Bridge Lane, lots 26 & 27 *Mountainbrook* Subdivision. Jean Duquette, Scott Nielson and Jody Doe present to discuss application. Scott explained that Jean wanted to build a house in the 100' buffer zone on each of these two lots. He had discussed the situation earlier with Janice and Jack, since he thought this work was covered under the earlier Determination done for lawn limit. That did not include building footprints, so they are back for these houses. All construction will be 50' or more from the wetland boundary. The silt fences are already installed, when the lots were cleared. Scott stated these are the last houses to be built on this side of the wetland, and that they will install the permanent monumentation when these are done. Dennis made the motion to approve the project with a negative determination # 3 (work in buffer zone, will not alter wetland), and 3 6 (no further application required under the bylaw). Brad seconded, and all voted in favor.

8:10 PM ADJOURNMENT. Brad made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Dennis, and all voted in favor. Next regular Conservation Commission meeting will be January 11th at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Stone

Janice Stone,
Conservation Administrator