



## PEPPERELL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes – December 20, 2011

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, Masterson, Moody, Rice, Steeves

Absent: Rand, Sauer

### **Other Business**

Upon a motion by Elliott, seconded by Rice, with Masterson and Steeves abstaining, all **VOTED**: to approve the Minutes of November 15, 2011, as drafted.

Upon a motion by Elliott, seconded by Rice, all **VOTED**: to cancel the January 3, 2012 meeting.

### **Conservation Administrator's Report**

- *Emergency Order for Commissioner's Signature – Shawnee Road and Herget Drive/Sewer Department Request*

Beaver Activity at Shawnee Road and Herget Drive resulted in flooding of several sewer manholes. At a site visit with Kalene Gendron from the Board of Health; Carmen DeFillippo from the Sewer Department and Terrasi from the Conservation Commission it was agreed the beaver dam needed to be breached to bring the water level down below the top of the manholes. Board of Health issued an Emergency Permit, which included Conservation Commission Conditions for gradual removal of a section of the dam. On a motion from Elliott, seconded by Rice, all

**VOTED**: to approve and sign the Emergency Certification Form.

- *Meeting Dates for January 2012 to June 2012*

The Commission agreed to the following meeting dates for the first six months of 2012: January 3 and 17, February 7 and 21, March 6 and 20, April 3 and 17, May 1 and 15 and June 5 and 19.

- *Conservation Commission Breakfast at NRWA*

Terrasi requested up to \$50 for the purchase of food and beverages for the January ConCom Breakfast being held at the NRWA. Each breakfast is hosted by a different town in this region and Pepperell will be the host for the January meeting. A PowerPoint presentation by Conservation Commissioner Pete Steeves on Streamstats will be the topic for this breakfast. On a motion from Elliott, seconded by Rice, all

**VOTED**: to approve up to \$50 to reimburse Terrasi for food and beverages for the ConCom breakfast meeting in January.

- *110 South Road – Planning Board Notice of Decision, Proposed Trail Design and MEPA Site Visit*

The Planning Board issued Special Permit #2011-06 for an eight home Open Space and Residential Development (OSRD) for 110 South Road. A four-space parking area is proposed for Open Space Parcel C on South Road/Rte. 119 which will connect a trail to Open Space Parcel A at the southwest of the development. The trail will continue from

the parking area along the stone wall on the opposite side of the discontinued Rines Road, past the residence using Rines Road as their driveway. Once past the residence, the trail will then cross through a break in the stone wall and continue onto Rines Road and make a connection with trails in Groton. Signs, approved by the Conservation Commission, will be posted by the developer identifying the trail location. A MEPA site visit is scheduled for Thursday, December 23 at 10:30 at the site and all are invited to attend. The entire site falls within the Squannassit ACEC, which triggered the MEPA review.

- *Chain Saw Use Permission for Conservation Land*

Town Counsel is working on a permission slip for trail maintainers who are asked to clear trails of downed branches and trees using chain saws. This work is being done at the request of the Conservation Commission so it differs slightly from those doing work for their own benefit. Town Counsel will check the Town's liability insurance.

- *5 Beaver Creek Circle – Letter*

A letter was sent to the homeowner at 5 Beaver Creek Circle after Terrasi found the area beyond the 50' no disturb markers mowed. The homeowner was informed that a Notice of Intent must be filed to mow this area.

- *Dog Waste on Conservation Land*

Several people have complained about large amounts of dog waste on Nissitissit Meadows. Pepperell does not have a steward for this property but the complainants asked if the Commission could put up signs asking dog owners to clean up after their pets. Terrasi will put up signs.

- *Oak Hill Beaver Deceivers*

Mike Callahan from Beaver Solutions has completed the annual Fall maintenance of the two beaver deceivers on Oak Hill Conservation Area. The water levels have continued to be high in this area. Mike has suggested adding a second pipe at each deceiver because the drainage pipes are more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with water and there is still water backing up on the adjoining fields. Mike will provide a quote.

- *Hunting on TOP Conservation Land*

Several calls were received from deer hunters who expressed confusion about whether shotgun use was permitted on several Conservation Commission parcels they have been shotgun hunting for years. These parcels abut conservation land under the control of other land protection organizations that are open to all hunting (ie. Archery, shotgun, primitive arms). The Commission agreed these Conservation Commission parcels should be open to shotgun hunting, with the exception of the Heald Street Orchard, which will remain open to archery only (by permit from the Conservation Commission). Elliott stated the goal is to keep at least 50% of Conservation Commission parcels open to hunting.

- *191 Brookline Street Illegal Dumping*

Daniel Gardner, who is proposing to build a house at 189 Brookline Street, reported illegal dumping behind 191 Brookline Street. The dumping appears to be household items (ie. clothing, hangers, curtains, toys) that were dumped many years ago, at least 20 or more years, over a bank near flood plain. Vegetation has covered the dump site and white pine trees have grown more than 30' tall leaving no sign of an access road that would have been used for the dumping. The Board of Health performed a site visit with the Conservation Commission and reported no sign of hazardous materials. The dumping is a Board of Health issue.

## **Other Business**

- R. H. Willson's Salvage Yard, 44 North Street

Terrasi reported that Harry Cullinan, Building inspector, sent a letter to R. H. Willson's listing several zoning, Board of Health, Fire Department, and wetlands issues he witnessed on their property while looking for a truck part recently. The front 7.037 acres has been a salvage yard for many years but the back 8.42 acres is zoned Rural Residential and requires a hearing with the Zoning Board of Appeals to determine whether they will issue a variance for this use. According to Cullinan, there are many vehicles in or near wetlands on the property. Moody suggested R.H. Willson have a wetland delineation completed to establish where the wetlands are. All agreed a site walk would be required once the delineation is complete so the Commission will have a full understanding of the impact to the wetlands. Steeves suggested vehicles be removed if necessary but this effort would take place over a period of time that could take several years. Rice stated the first goal would be to protect wetland areas that have not been disturbed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paula Terrasi