

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OCTOBER 19, 2016

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, David McTigue, Vice Chairman, Lisa Oden, Karen Miller, Matt Oliveira, Lori Rautiola

ABSENT: Jack Messe

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

The minutes of the September 14, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Matt made a motion to approve the minutes. Lisa seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Water Resources: Lisa gave an update on the Stream Buffer Ordinance. Lisa and Matt have been working with the Planning Board to better explain the ordinance and to make it easier for people to understand. The Planning Board liked the idea of the grid showing the provision, existing ordinance, proposed ordinance and rationale.

The Board conversed about the vegetated buffers and why they are important. The buffer protects the water quality and wildlife habitat, reduces bank erosion, etc. The Planning Board agreed it would be a good idea to put together some educational flyers on things such as livestock best management practices, to better educate the voters on these areas. Bob questioned how and to whom we could distribute these flyers. Lisa suggested putting some links on the town website and making fact sheets available at the Town Office, however, she added the Commission should get the ordinance drafted and accepted first, and then support it with educational materials.

Lisa noted the Planning Board recommended to keep the grandfather provisions in the ordinance. This would mean work consisting of the repair or maintenance of any lawful use of land that is zoned and approved for such use on or before the effective date of this ordinance. Bob noted there still is not enforcement from the Building Department; in order for the ordinance to work effectively the Building Inspector should play a part in checking for wetlands before any excavation takes place on the building lot. The members conversed about some of the changes made to the ordinance, grazing of livestock, and best management practices and agreed to add these back into the ordinance.

The Board discussed the groundwater protection ordinance. A document was distributed showing the amendments to be made to the ordinance. Bob questioned the amendment where it states under Conditional Uses, "Any activities that involve blasting of bedrock provided the Planning Board has approved a Pollution Prevention Plan submitted according to the Site Plan Regulations." He stated the Planning Board wanted to know if it was a stratified drift aquifer, why would they be blasting it and would this pertain to blasting in the wellhead protection areas. David stated the Planning Board was concerned with "just too much" and stated no one is going to be blasting in the aquifer as it is sand and gravel. You can blast adjacent to them. David added that the wellhead protection areas were eliminated

from the ordinance since the State covers that and Bob noted the wellheads are already defined in Town. There are two levels, the stratified drift aquifers and the wellheads.

Members discussed spillage from construction vehicles on building lots and Bob suggested everyone, including the Planning Board, read the State recommendations of best management practices. He stated we want to make sure the ordinance protects the aquifers from spillage. Karen noted the Planning Board has put them on the agenda for the November 2, 2016 meeting.

Lands: Bob recapped the history of a parcel of land on Page Hill that was donated to the Town in 1954 which the Town had used for a landfill. He noted it was just closed and not capped as they were not required to do so. Over the years the land was subdivided into individual parcels and homes were built. Having concern for the landowner's wells, Bob noted he would like to add \$1200.00 to the 2017 budget for water testing to pay for those landowners water to be tested.

Bob asked David to have the spreadsheet of signs for the next meeting.

New Business: Annual elections were held. Lori nominated Jack Messe, David McTigue and Matt Oliveira for three year terms. Lisa seconded and it passed unanimously. David made a motion to nominate Bob Boynton as Chairman, Matt seconded and it passed unanimously. Bob made a motion to elect David as Vice-Chairman. Matt seconded and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola