

HAMDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 19, 2006

Present: Charlie Schmitt, Phil Grant, Bonnie Geromini & Pat Cote

Meeting opened at 7:10 by Charlie Schmitt.

ENFORCEMENT ORDER- Satyerndra Ghiri, 283 Somer Road- an enforcement order had been issued to Dr. Ghiri on July 12, 2006 due to cutting within 100 feet of a resource area (pond) and 200 feet of a stream without an Order of Conditions. The Enforcement Order was reviewed with Commission members. Pictures of the property as it was prior to being sold will be sent in by the previous owner. The enforcement order was ratified by Commission members.

Minutes of the June meeting were read and accepted with corrections.

RUSS MORTON- River Park Drive- Multiple complaints have been received regarding dumping on property owned by his son-in-law, Eric Weichelbaumer. The property is classified as agricultural. Charlie Schmitt asked Mr. Morton when the last time it was used for agricultural purposes as in order to remain as such it must be on a continuous basis. Mr. Morton replied it has always been classified as 61A. Charlie Schmitt stated Commission members observed vehicular tracks, mulch and cutting of saplings piled on the premises during their site visit. Mr. Morton stated someone else was responsible for this and that is why the gate was put up.

Mr. Morton would like to increase the size of the culvert under pathway into the field. Charlie stated that he needed to show that the pathway has been in use for the last five years. Mr. Morton replied he is using what has always been there. Charlie reminded Mr. Morton no heavy equipment can be used. Mr. Morton replied he was only using farm machinery.

Pat Cote stated they had observed trash mixed in with the mulch pile. Mr. Morton did not know anything about it.

Charlie Schmitt stated research will be done as to what restrictions there might be even with agricultural use and when it was classified as 61A.

CONNIE WITT- Scantic River clean-up: Connie Witt appeared before the Commission to provide information regarding the proposed clean-up day on Sept. 30th. Conn. Valley Watershed clean-up is on that date and they will help with the picking up of trash. Connie hopes to have the assistance of the Boy & Girl Scouts, Lions Club members, Scantic River Watershed members and others. No heavy machinery will be used, only a bucket loader or winch on the roadway to handle the heavier objects. Charlie stated only consideration he had would be the erosion on the banks of the river.

Connie also reported that the Garden Club is planning to put a day in to remove invasive plants. Charlie stated erosion controls need to be in place and a site visit should be done before they begin the work.

SATYERNDRA GHIRI, 283 Somer Road- Dr. Ghiri's attorney was present and stated they will address the situation and provide restoration due to cutting within 100 feet of a resource area (pond) and 200 feet of a stream without an Order of Conditions.

Delineation of resource area and monumentation needs to be done as well as a restoration plan to left of driveway. Charlie Schmitt stated the owners hired someone who they thought knew the laws and that the Commission would try to be reasonable.

Town by-laws requires 3-1 restoration and substantial plantings should be planted. Pete Levesque stated the slope near the pond area would need to be stabilized. He also wanted to know what vehicle should be used. Bonnie Geromini stated a blank Notice of Intent was given Dr. Ghiri and this should be the vehicles as when the property is sold the NOI would then be on file at the Registry of Deeds.

Questions were raised as to whether or not a brush pile near the garage door could be removed. This can be done as it is not in the Commission's purview as it is outside the 200 foot buffer zone. Pete Levesque will go and mark out the 200 foot barrier.

RFD'S – Kibbe, Deon & Schmitt- All three requests were for the purpose of removing fallen trees damaged by the October storm. A discussion on fees for requests was held and felt that a mechanism should be in place for small maintenance work. The three requests were put on hold until further information could be obtained.

GIRL SCOUTS- Memorial Park- RFD- Request was not submitted in time to have legal notice published for this meeting. Commission will need a drawing of work to be done and other information regarding culvert replacement. A special meeting can be held if information is received.

WEST BROOK ESTATES- Ames Road- Determination Applicability- Motion made by Bonnie Beromini to approve a Positive Determination, (2a) on the Request for Determination by West Brook Estates. Second by Pat Cote. Motion approved. VOTING: Yes- Bonnie Geromini, Phil Grant & Pat Cote. Abstained: Charlie Schmitt.

TIGHE & BOND- Mike Ford – invoice for review of septic system design for Glendale Road has been received. A letter will be sent to Mr. Ford requesting payment to be sent payable to Town of Hampden and invoice will be pain upon receipt of funds.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Mikkola, Clerk