

HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2006

Present: Charlie Schmitt, Phil Grant, Pat Cote, Jeff Liquori and Bonnie Geromini

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Charlie Schmitt.

Minutes of the September meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

Charlie Schmitt reported on site visit to Russ Cable's property, South Road, on Saturday, September 28, 2006 by Commission members. There was no evidence of tree stumping. The Commission did review the placement of utility pole in or near buffer zone. Attempts to contact utility company in regards to pole placement have gone unanswered. Chairman asks Clerk to continue to try and contact utility company.

Charlie also reported he has spoken with Dr. Giri's attorney and they would not be attending tonight's meeting as plans being drawn by Gary Weiner were not ready.

A site visit was conducted at Laughing Brook on work being done. Charlie stated he was very impressed with all that has been completed.

Mr. Leslie, 401 North Road, Hampden was in attendance to give brief description of his Request for Determination, to be filed. They have hired Pioneer Environmental, Colleen Foerste to review the wetland and riverfront delineations for property located at 401 North Road. Charlie read an e-mail from Mark Stinson, Department of Environmental Protection regarding information on the RFD. Mr. Stinson's comment was that the vegetated list and appendix G was not filled out. A site visit will be conducted on Saturday, October 21, 2006 at 8:00 am. Charlie to notify Colleen Foerste of date and time. Phil Grant stated that once the property is sold and plans to build take place, a Notice of Intent needs to be filed.

Carmine Angeloni, from Forestry Division of Department of Environmental Protection was present to explain how the forest cutting program works. Charlie stated that we are getting copies of approvals but do not receive copies of the plans in advance in order to respond with any concerns. The Commission understands that they have ten days to respond. Carmine states the Commission should be receiving the initial notification well before the ten days of the determination. If the Commission or abutters do not receive the plans in time, Carmine is to be notified and he will in turn notify the landowner, forester, or planner that work cannot begin or will have to stop for 10 days. Carmine explained some of the rules and regulations regarding crossing of streams or brooks. Carmine inspects the bridges that are constructed to move timber across the streams or brooks to make sure they are properly constructed.

At this time, wetlands are not required to be delineated on a forestry plan but there is a proposed change to do so. Forest cutting is considered agricultural and does not have the same regulations as a building proposal. Pat Cote voiced concern regarding forestry plans coming through and then shortly followed by a subdivision. This avenue is being undertaken to circumvent the regulations for building. Carmine answered that they are sensitive to this and they do reject plans if there are doubts regarding the intention of the cutting. They do not allow for infrastructure to be built on the property for forest cutting. They also keep track of the work being done on the property to oversee that damage is not done to wetlands, brooks or streams.

Bonnie Geromini asked about clear cutting, especially relating to Hillside/Ridgeline concerns. Carmine answered that clear cutting is very good for forest management but that the department does not allow clear cutting on areas where the soils can not sustain it.

Phil Grant asked what the thresholds are for filing a forestry plan. Carmine answered that it is 25,000 board feet or 50 cords.

Jeff Liquori asked if there were time frames when cutting can and cannot be done. Carmine states there are not set time frames in most cases unless it is property Natural Heritage has set a time frame or the property is not accessible at certain times of the year. The plans expire in two years but can be renewed for (2) one year extensions.

Carmine expressed concern regarding the lack of forest cutting notifications being given to the Commission. Charlie Schmitt stated that he will ask the Clerk to set up file indicating when plans are received and we will periodically report back to Carmine.

MOUNTAIN ROAD – A neighbor of the Leaning property, came to the meeting with concerns regarding a septic system being installed on the Leaning property, Mountain Road. He states that the system is within 200 feet of a stream and near wetlands. A site visit will be done on Saturday, October 21st at 8:30 am.

NOTICE OF INTENT – Department of Environmental Protection #173-0178 Cingular Wireless- Public Hearing

Hearing was opened by Charlie Schmitt.

Dean Gustafson, VHB, consultant for New Cingular Wireless, PCS, LLC, 500 Enterprise Dr. Suite #A, Rocky Hill, CT, 06067, gave presentation for the installation of wireless communications equipment on existing 105' electrical transmission tower with six directional panel antennas; construction of a 24' x 30' communications compound adjacent to tower; and reinforcement of existing tower foundation at the proposed site on Allen Street. There are bordering vegetated wetlands and a vernal pool in the area of construction. There is estimated habitat for rare species within this area as well and Natural Heritage has been contacted and have made their recommendations. In addition to the standard recommendations, they recommended the proposed silt fence be extended to the entire perimeter of the area and they will verify the barrier.

Charlie Schmitt had some concerns regarding the delineations and orientation of tower and the tree line of the viability of the species. Assurance was provided by aerials and confirmation that several surveys have been completed.

Phil Grant made motion to accept the Notice of Intent with conditions. Second by Jeff Liquori. **VOTING: Yes- Charlie Schmitt, Phil Grant, Jeff Liquori, Pat Cote and Bonnie Geromini. No – none**

Charlie Schmitt made motion to close the hearing. Second by Phil Grant. Motion approved. **VOTING: Yes- Charlie Schmitt, Phil Grant, Jeff Liquori, Pat Cote and Bonnie Geromini. No – none**

Hank Dunwoody & Judy Hatch- Cemetery Commissioners

Mr. Dunwoody and Ms. Hatch presented information regarding the possibility for changes at the Old Cemetery on Chapin Road. They plan to put another catch basin in to collect excess water and they also wish to extend the cemetery to the back part of the property. There is a question regarding a stream, whether or not it is perennial or intermittent. A site visit will be done on Saturday, October 21st.

Mark Stinson has provided information regarding a by-law to allow members of the commission the ability to vote on actions if the member of the Commission misses one session on a project and provides written documentation that they are up to speed with the project. This needs to come before the Selectmen. Clerk to provide the Selectmen with the information.

Mark Feeney came in regarding the property on Mountain Road and proposed septic system. The owners have not come in for a building permit.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Mikkola, Clerk
Hampden Conservation Commission

Minutes approved on November 15, 2006