

HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DECEMBER 20, 2006

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

Meeting opened at 7:03 pm by Charlie Schmitt

7:05 pm- **DR. SATYENDRA GIRI, 283 Somers Road DEP file # 173-0179**

Motion made by Charlie Schmitt to continue public hearing on Notice of Intent. Second by Bonnie Geromini.

Attorney Ellen Freeman and Pete Levesque attended the meeting representing Dr. Giri. They reported review done by Tighe & Bond went well. All of the recommendations were incorporated into the proposed landscaping and buffer zone restoration project.

Bonnie Geromini asked who would be overseeing the project. Pete Levesque answered that Pioneer Environmental will be doing the monitoring. This stipulation is to be included in the Order of Conditions.

Some of the restoration plan will have to wait until spring but the siltation fence is to be completed immediately to stabilize the swale areas. The bare spots in the open field will also be seeded.

Pat Cote inquired as to the material to be used on the footpath. She stated that large slabs of granite near the footpath were observed during the site visit and she voiced concern as to how these would be installed. Pete Levesque answered that he was not aware of granite being used. He was planning on flat stones so there would be minimal impact. Pat Cote would like it be stipulated slabs of granite not be used for the footpath. This request to be included in the Order of Conditions.

Bonnie Geromini made motion to accept the Notice of Intent as modified. Second by Phil Grant. Motion approved unanimously. VOTING: Yes- Charlie Schmitt, Bonnie Geromini, Pat Cote, Jeff Liquori and Phil Grant. No- none

Charlie Schmitt made motion to lift the Enforcement Order on Dr. Giri. Second by Bonnie Geromini. Motion approved unanimously. VOTING: Yes- Charlie Schmitt, Bonnie Geromini, Pat Cote, Jeff Liquori and Phil Grant. No- none

Charlie Schmitt made motion to close the public hearing. Second by Phil Grant. Motion approved unanimously.

7:20 pm – Minutes of the November 15, 2006 meeting were read and accepted. Motion to accept minutes made by Pat Cote. Second by Bonnie Geromini. Approved unanimously.

7:25 pm - NATIONALGRID- A letter was sent from NationalGrid informing the Commission of the need to replace a number of supporting structures of the electric transmission lines. The work will begin this winter and be completed later next year. Maintenance of right-of-way access roads and some tree trimming will also be necessary so construction equipment can reach the structures.

Notification to the Conservation Commission is not required; however they wanted to inform the Commission of the work and to assure citizens of their sensitivity to the concerns of its neighbors and to its commitment to properly protect wetland resource areas.

7:30 pm- TALL PINES CONSERVATION EASEMENT, Allen Street & Stony Hill Road
Charlie Schmitt recused himself from the meeting. Comments from Town Counsel Attorney David Martel were reviewed along with the maps showing the conservation easements. The Selectmen have signed off on the Southwood Easement but the changes that Attorney Martel suggested were not incorporated into the document. There are many concerns that need to be addressed before the Commission members feel they can sign off on these easements. Some of the concerns are: (1) what is the Conservation Commission's responsibility in regards to the property; (2) where does the Commission's responsibility start and end; (3) maintenance of land, etc; (4) monies for upkeep. Selectmen will be asked to have changes suggested by Attorney Martel included in documents.

A letter of opposition to the Tall Pines PURD from Beverly Turnberg-Carosello was received. Her concern is the Tall Pines project is within her right of way that runs 1369 feet straight back from Stony Hill Road. The plan submitted to the town shows their right of way being only 700 feet straight back. This matter will need to be handled by Turnberg-Carosello's and Tall Pines attorneys.

8:00 pm- John Matthews, 28 North Monson Road

Mr. Matthews appeared before the Commission with concerns about his neighbor running a dumpster business on property. There is a small stream on the property and the property has been cut, filled and equipment stored on it. Mr. Matthews provided pictures of the property near the stream. It appears that violations of the wetland laws have taken place.

Mr. Matthews called the DEP and Mr. Tim McKenna and Lance Trevallion, Bldg. Inspector for the Town of Hampden have gone out and viewed the property. The Conservation Commission was not given notification of the visit.

A letter will be sent to Mr. McKenna notifying him that the Conservation Commission will assume that DEP will address this matter directly and asking them to notify us if the interests of the town have been contravened in any way.

8:25 pm – Selectman John Flynn appeared before the Commission. He reported that Jane Budynkiewicz will be the clerk for the Building Inspector.

Discussion was also held in regard to the Conservation Easements for Tall Pines. Following discussion, John suggested that a meeting between the Selectmen, a member of the Conservation Commission, the DEP and Attorney Albano could be held. The meeting could take place next week.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Mikkola

Minutes approved on Jan. 17, 2007