

HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2007

Members present: Bonnie Geromini, Jeff Liquori and Pat Cote

Meeting opened at 7:05 by Bonnie Geromini.

Minutes of the January 2007 meeting were read and approved with Pat Cote abstaining from vote.

7:15 NOTICE OF INTENT- Mass. Audubon Society- Laughing Brook
This was an informational meeting as a File Number has not been issued by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Tom Lautzenheiser and Stu Weinreb representing Mass. Audubon and Laughing Brook presented information on purpose of Notice of Intent. They would like to reopen the sanctuary by early May and in order to do this the main entrance needs to be repaired from damage suffered during the October 2005 flood. There are three different areas where work is being proposed, most of which is in wetland resource areas which includes taking down wooden structures. The structures will not be removed completely but will be cut down at ground level.

Pat Cote asked how the debris would be removed? Mr. Lautzenheiser answered it had been discussed at great detail and no decision has been made at this time. Jeff Liquori stated that the trail system was the best alternative for bringing the debris out and that the Notice of Intent did not specify how debris was to be removed. Jeff stated he felt they needed to submit a plan to the Commission as to how this will be accomplished.

Bonnie Geromini inquired if the overlook near the big pond would be kept. Mr. Lautzenheiser responded that it would.

Bonnie Geromini asked if there were plans to restore the extension of trails across the road? Mr. Lautzenheiser responded he was not aware of any plans for the south side as their main focus was to do the entryway.

There will be a gate at the front entrance that will be open all the time and a gate at the north end closed at all times.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated they have applied to Natural Heritage and Mass Audubon and are only aware of the wood turtle as a possible rare species on property. There are also vernal pools in the area but they not located in project work area, but located about 1000 feet away.

Lynn Wallace asked how long would it be before work begins and if Mass. Audubon would be asking for any volunteer help? Bonnie Geromini replied an official meeting will take place next week and Commission would have to wait for DEP and Natural Heritages response before any decision from Commission can take place. No Order of Conditions will be set until all are heard from.

Mr. Lautzenheiser replied they may be asking for some volunteer help especially in removing invasive species.

Jeff Liquori stated he would like to have a written construction plan, a game plan as to how they planned to remove the debris. Mr. Lautzenheiser stated they would have this available by next week. Bonnie Geromini asked that they have the name of a contact in case Commission sees a problem. Mr. Lautzenheiser stated it would be Steven Walker- Manager of Arcadia Properties, 413-584-3009.

Pat Cote made motion to continue meeting until Wednesday, February 28-2007 at 7:15 pm. Second by Jeff Liquori. Motion approved.

Tall Pines Enforcement Order- Enforcement order needing ratification by Commission was reviewed and discussed. This was tabled until next meeting when Phil Grant would be available to give further information.

Lomascola Enforcement Order- Enforcement order was discussed and issued. To be sent by Certified Mail.

Clerical hours were reviewed and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10.

Submitted by,

Judith Mikkola, Clerk

Minutes approved on March 21m 2007