

HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 21, 2007

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

7:30 pm – Mass. Audubon Society- NOI, Public Hearing (continued)

Stu Weinreb, Tom Lautzenheiser and Mary Kruber representing Mass. Audubon provided a brief overview of proposed activity.

Phil Grant questioned plans for maintenance of meadow? Mr. Weinreb answered they plan to mow the meadow once a year. Invasive species removal from front entrance is planned, however, there are no plans for invasive species removal in other parts of the property. Mary Kruber suggested that college students may be able to assist with the invasive species removal.

A response from Natural Heritage was reviewed. The NHESP has determined that the project will not adversely affect the actual Resource Area Habitat of state-protected rare wildlife species. The project appears to be in areas containing habitat for the Climbing Fern. A plan submitted by a qualified botanist to NHESP which would include searching all suitable habitat for Climbing Fern within the invasive plant control area is to be submitted to NHESP. If the plan shows the avoidance of a “take” of these plants the project may qualify for an exemption. Mr. Weinreb stated a plan would be submitted to Mass. Heritage as well as a letter indicating a botanist would be on site while work is being done.

Charlie Schmitt inquired as to disposition of the rest of the property? Mary Kruber replied the barn is being used for equipment and house is residence and operations center for Laughing Brook. No disposition of property is planned at this time.

Charlie Schmitt asked what type of machinery is to be used? Stu Weinreb presented construction plan. Structures to be removed at ground level without disturbing existing grade. This will be done with hand equipment. Pat Cote questioned how the material would be removed? Tom Lautzenheiser stated the debris will be hand carried out and put in pick-up trucks. Reasonable conditions for how debris is to be removed can be put in the Order of Conditions.

Audubon to send letter to Natural Heritage and when their response is received the Commission can then issue the Order of Conditions.

Meeting continued until April 18, 2007.

Mr. Jack Matthews attended the meeting to inquire of status of Chris Lomascola property. Charlie Schmitt explained Phil Grant performed a site visit and an Enforcement Order has been issued. Pete Levesque, Pioneer Environmental was called

regarding status for complying with the Enforcement Order. Mr. Levesque stated that flagging has been done but they are waiting for the survey to take place, scheduled to be completed in a week or two.

Mr. Lomascola did not appear at the meeting as requested on the Enforcement Order. A letter will be sent to him stating he is in non-compliance of the Enforcement Order and will need to come to next meeting or a fine would be levied.

Minutes of the February 21, 2007 meeting were read and approved. Phil Grant made motion to accept minutes. Pat Cote second. Motion approved.

Minutes of the February 28, 2007 meeting were read and approved. Phil Grant made motion to accept minutes. Pat Cote second. Motion approved.

A Request for Determination for Pepin, South Road received yesterday was reviewed for a future public meeting. A determination from Natural Heritage is needed as the plan is in polygon. A site visit will be done but staking in the field for placement of house, well and septic is necessary. A letter will be sent requesting that this be done. Public hearing will be put off until determination from Natural Heritage is received.

Clerical hours and expenses were approved.

Motion made by Phil Grant to close meeting. Motion approved. Meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Mikkola, Clerk

Minutes approved on April 18, 2007