

**TOWN OF HAMPDEN  
MASSACHUSETTS**



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HAMPDEN  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
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**CONSERVATION MEETING- JANUARY 16, 2008**

Present: Phil Grant, Jeff Liquori, Bonnie Geromini, and Pat Cote.  
Guest: Mark Stinson, Circuit Rider, Department of Environmental Protection

Meeting opened by Bonnie Geromini. Mr. Stinson provided Commission with updated Priority Resource maps.

Jeff Liquori reported he contacted Mr. Craig Tighe, from Mass. Audubon concerning equipment to be used to remove bridges at Laughing Brook.

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept made by Pat Cote, second by Jeff Liquori. Motion approved.

Mr. Gregory O'Connor did not attend meeting as scheduled. A letter requesting he appear at the next meeting will be sent.

Clerical hours were reviewed and approved.

Proposed budget for the next fiscal year reviewed and approved. No changes in expense amount is needed and clerical cost to be increased as directed by Advisory Board.

**7:15 NOI AMES ROAD- CONTINUATION**

A review of the findings provided by Tighe & Bond for the peer review has been completed. All comments were discussed with Heather Comee from Pioneer Environmental.

Pat Cote asked if other options had been looked at without disturbing so much area? Heather Comee explained reasoning for the proposed plan.

Pat Cote stated the approval of this plan depends on a hardship and she would like to know what the hardship is? Heather responded the upland is buildable land but requires crossing the stream.

Bonnie Geromini stated she would like to see a wildlife habitat evaluation done. Heather Comee responded that Commission could request this.

Discussion followed regarding the construction of an open-bottom arched culvert to span East Brook for the driveway crossing. Revetments were discussed and Heather Comee responded that Gary Weiner had said they do not need revetments as it is more suitable for larger rivers with high velocity. Jeff Liquori suggested that Gary Weiner provide a statement stating the sufficiency of the stream bank and bridge. Pat Cote stated that the plans have not been signed & stamped by Gary Weiner and this needs to be done.

Phil Grant commented on the great concerns he has in regards to the design and inadequacy of the stream channel depth and bridge. Phil voiced concern if the bridge would act like a dam and catch debris being brought down the stream during a big storm. Heather Comee responded it was designed to meet 100 year storms.

Jeff Liquori suggested Gary Weiner provide the Commission with back-up data as to standards the design meets.

Jeff Liquori made motion to continue meeting until Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:15pm and that the Commission would like to have a Wildlife evaluation done and all of Tighe & Bond's recommendation be followed. Motion second by Bonnie Geromini. Motion approved.

Phil Grant made motion to re-open the meeting. Mrs. Philipps requested the Commission apply the filing fees to help pay for the Peer Review done by Tighe & Bond. Mr. Stinson was asked if this was allowable. He stated there is nothing in regulations stating it can or cannot be done. Following discussion, Phil Grant made motion to apply the Town's filing fees to help pay for the peer review. Second by Jeff Liquori. Motion approved. Phil made motion to continue meeting until Feb, 20<sup>th</sup>. Second by Pat Cote. Motion approved.

### **8:30 PM NOI, GLENDALE ROAD - CONTINUATION**

Conservation Commission wanted to see Septic System design before making a decision, however, the design has not been submitted for approval. Heather Comee has tried to contact Mr. Capperelli without success. Heather stated that Order of Conditions could include that the septic plans have to be approved by Board of Health. Bonnie Geromini stated that the septic system has not been staked on site. Heather commented that the perc test shows it is outside the fifty foot buffer. Pat Cote mentioned there is a by-law for the Town of Hampden regarding back taxes and being able to make decisions that come before the Towns boards. Pat Cote asked there the hardship was? Heather responded that these are building lots and they cannot be built on without a septic system. Jeff Liquori requested that estimates on what the costs would be for various ways of utilizing land so the Commission would have a better idea of the hardship involved. Bonnie Geromini made motion to continue meeting until Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. Second by Phil Grant. Motion approved. Heather Comee requested a preliminary Order of Conditions be ready for the Feb, 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Mark Stinson, Circuit Rider, Department of Environmental Protection**

Mr. Stinson provided information and demonstrated the GIS mapping system. Mr. Stinson also provided information regarding Request for Determinations and suggested asking applicants if they have sent a copy of the RDA to the DEP. 75% of the Requests are not sent to the DEP. He also went over the steps for approving and denying projects, enforcements issues and other conservation issues.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Mikkola, Clerk

Minutes approved on February 20, 2008