

Hubbardston Conservation Commission Minutes

June 4, 2014

Library Basement

Meeting called to order 7:00 p.m. in the Hubbardston Library Conference Room located in the Library Basement.

Present: Steve Mossey, Tony Coppola, Larry Therrien,

Absent: Tom Larson

Guests: Rebecca Budaj, Jonathon Miganowicz, Russ Pelletier, Tom Christopher, Jassy Bratko

**First Order of Business:**

Tom Christopher from Christopher Environmental presented to the Board a Notice of Intent for Dr. Joey Edsall at 229 Gardner Road, Hubbardston. Mr. Christopher proposes to replace a failed 8 inch culvert with an 18 inch culvert on an existing gravel access road, and further stabilize the gravel roadbed with the addition of crushed stone to prevent siltation from entering a forested wetland area directly to the west. The Notice of Intent was submitted in conjunction with an "Earth Removal Application" filed with the Hubbardston Planning Board in order to remove two existing stockpiles of earth products and complete the restoration of the site into additional dog training areas as the property was bought by Falline LLC in 2013 and is currently being used as a dog training facility. Mr. Christopher had asked Chairman Mossey for an emergency certification to begin the work a few weeks ago. Mr. Mossey had granted the emergency certification for the work as stated. Mr. Christopher did bring in photos to show us what work had been done. Tony Coppola questioned Mr. Christopher in regards to removing the topsoil from the property and from the Town. Mr. Christopher stated that he spoke to the planning board and was able to remove the topsoil with the permit that they are giving him.

**Motion: Tony Coppola**

**Second: Larry Therrien**

**Motion made to accept the conditions of the NOI as written. All in favor, motion carries.**

Russ Pelletier from Falmouth, MA came in to the meeting as an abutter to the NOI from Christopher Environmental. Mr. Pelletier asked that the Board show him which parcel of land belongs to him. Mr. Mossey and Mr. Christopher showed Mr. Pelletier where his parcel of land was. He thanked the Board and left.

**North Medford Running Club:**

Jonathon Miganowicz came in front of the board to present on behalf of the North Medford Running Club to ask if the club could conduct a race on Mt. Jefferson. The race would take place on Tuesday July 8, 2014 between 5pm – 7 pm. Mr. Miganowicz stated that the club usually gets between 20-25 people for races. The club would be bringing in a timing clock on a tripod. The Board stated that whatever was brought in must be taken out and all trash would need to be removed. Jassy Bratko from Open Space was also at the meeting and requested that all cars would be limited to where they parked as the hay fields are around the trails they would like to use. Mr. Miganowicz stated that the club would park on one side of the street so as not to disturb anything.

**Motion: Tony Coppola****Second: Larry Therrien**

**Motion was made to allow the North Medford Running Club to use the Mt. Jefferson Trails for a race. The Board requires that all guidelines be adhered to and insurance certificate of \$1,000,000.00 naming the Town of Hubbardston as certificate holder be given.**

**Open Space Update:**

Jassy Bratko of the Open Space Committee came in to update the Board as to what the Committee would like to do for maintenance of the trails on Mt. Jefferson. Mrs. Bratko stated that the trails have serious problem areas which need to be fixed. There is one trail in particular that needs to have work done with gravel being brought in and equipment will be used as well. The Gates Hill Trail has been a problem for a while. The trail runs along the hay field and disappears into the woods. That area takes a sharp turn and then has a steep incline straight down. There is erosion noted. The Open Space Committee would like to extend the trail to the end of the hay field and then create a series of switchbacks. There is a drop of approximately three feet over the stone wall. The dirt ramp would be approximately 15 feet long. There are a lot of different places on various trails that need work. Some of the trails have “mucky” areas which are getting worse with increased use. The Open Space Committee has found polyethylene materials which are used on farms and in logging operations. There is a stream crossing which is very difficult for people to go over. Mrs. Bratko would like to use stepping stones and light polyethylene material to help people to access this area more easily. Mrs. Bratko is looking at different options for funding this project. The Board thanked Mrs. Bratko for coming in and for keeping the Board informed.

**NEXAMP Update:**

Tony Coppola gave the Board an update on the NEXAMP Solar Project. Mr. Coppola went to the Pitcherville Road location to oversee the beginning of the wetland restoration cleanup. It was scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 am. Mr. Coppola went there at 8:30 am to see the vacuum

truck. Nexamp didn't even have it set up at this point. Mr. Coppola went back approximately three hours later and they had cleaned an area of approximately 4'x4' and around 18 inches deep. Nexamp was unable to just vacuum it. They had to go in and break it up with a high pressure air house, have it roll into balls and then vacuum it. Nexamp continued through the day until approximately 4:30. Mr. Coppola received a phone call from Mr. Brandon Doane stating that the water level was high and due to lack of progress they were going to stop work on the wetlands. Mr. Doane stated that he would like to wait until July when the water table levels would be down and hopefully they would be able to actually make some progress. Mr. Coppola did discuss maybe using a small excavator with a small bucket with no teeth on it when work resumed. Mr. Doane will take that into consideration. Mr. Doane will continue to keep the Conservation Commission informed when work resumes.

**Motion: Larry Therrien**

**Second: Tony Coppola**

**Motion made to accept the minutes of May 7, 2014 as written with the amended text to the May 2013 minutes. All in favor, motion carries.**

**MACC Annual Dues:**

The Board discussed the renewal of the MACC Annual Dues for FY015. The Board agreed to continue membership in the MACC.

**DPW Culvert Replacement:**

Tim Kilhart, DPW Director, spoke to Mr. Mossey regarding three culverts which need to be replaced. One culvert is on Bemis Road before Pole #13, one by 197 Williamsville Road, and one by 63 Twin Hill Road. The Board agreed that this is considered maintenance and is covered under the NOI that the Highway Department has already filed.

**POA: Toni will email Tim Kilhart that the Board considers this as maintenance.**

**Motion: Larry Therrien**

**Second: Tony Coppola**

**Motion made to allow Steve Mossey, Chairman, and Toni Walker, Clerk, to approve and sign all AP vouchers and Payroll vouchers. All in favor, motion carries.**

**Motion: Larry Therrien**

**Second: Tony Coppola**

**Motion made to adjourn at 8:09 pm with no further discussion. All in favor.**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

7/16/14

