

***Topsfield Conservation Commission***  
***Minutes of Wednesday, January 9, 2013***  
 Topsfield Library Meeting Room

**Present:** Commissioners Mark Erickson (Chair), Jennie Merrill (Vice-Chair), Holger Luther, Jim MacDougall, Cheryl Jolley, Jim Carroll, and Rick Muka; Administrator Lana Spillman; Minutes Secretary Debbie Rogers; Selectman Liaison Dick Gandt.

**Absent:** None

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM with a quorum present.

**HEARINGS:**

**RDA#2012-11: 488 Boston Street**, (Map 08, Lot 001), Iovanella

Present: Jim MacDowell representing Frank Iovanella

A Public Hearing was held to consider the RDA for the installation of a well in a Buffer Zone on property located at 488 Boston Street. The original well will be abandoned and a new well will be installed by Rollins. The abutters have been notified. MacDowell explained how they went before the ZBA with a proposal for two homes, and the ZBA determined the proposal was acceptable as two homes were previously located on the site. There would be no intrusion on the heavily vegetated area, in Buffer Zone. Copies of the proposed plan were distributed at the meeting. These plans include a slurry pit to contain slurry runoff, which will be removed following installation.

Luther moved to close the hearing. Jolley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Luther made a motion to issue a Negative DoA, based on the proposed work as shown on the plan dated September 21, 2012 with revisions 12/6/2012, entitled "Proposed On-Site Sewage Disposal System Plan," with the usual conditions. The motion was seconded by Merrill and passed unanimously.

**NOI #307- 0695: 224A & 230 Boston Street**, (Map 49, Lots 043 & 045), National Grid/AECOM Environment

Present: Tom Keough, AECOM; Jim McIntyre, National Grid; Josh Holder, National Grid; Michael Michel, National Grid; Yan Zhang, AECOM; Sue and Charlie Wilkinson, Abutters

A Public Hearing was held to consider the NOI for the reconstruction of a Mass Electric Company substation with activities in and adjacent to Land Subject to Flooding, in Riverfront area, BVW, and Buffer Zone at 224A and 230 Boston Street. Keough explained how the proposed project is to rebuild the substation in a safe manner. This includes the construction of a temporary substation with no permanent structures at 230 Boston Street, and the equipment situated on temporary work areas. The project is scheduled to start in March and will take approximately one year to complete. The temporary substation will be enclosed by a chain link fence, with signs posted and precautions taken to protect the area. The permanent substation is located adjacent to floodplain area, and is adjacent to Bordering Vegetated Wetland and School Brook. The finished grading will result in increased flood storage volume. All activity at the permanent substation will be confined to the work area using an easement located off Route 1. The substation surface is gravel at this point. All equipment will have concrete foundations above the floodplain. None of the activities will result in a rise of flood water. A utility pole in Resource Areas will be replaced using the existing lines, access from the area of the Rail Trail, and swamp mats on the wetland. Any disturbances to the area will be repaired immediately. The dismantling of the old station

includes the removal of transformers. Soil samples have been done and there was no contamination found in the soils. The oil from the old equipment will be removed at the site. The interior surface is gravel and will be gravel when the project is complete. Proposed sedimentation barriers on the perimeter include logs wrapped around the entire perimeter, with added geotechnical material. Spillman requested a sequence of activities, including a dismantling and reconstruction schedule, and it was agreed a schedule would be submitted. The design presented at the meeting is the final design of the permanent features of the project. Erickson requested a site walk for the TCC to observe the area. A site walk was scheduled for Monday, January 14, 2013 at 3:00 PM. Environmental monitoring will include written reports and weekly inspections as required. Keough explained that weather will be monitored to ensure precautions are in place to deal with various unexpected situations, in accordance with the National Grid “Environmental Field Issue.” Keough explained that a legally recorded easement allows access to the site and will not affect neighboring properties. Spillman recommended looking at the Assessors Map to make sure the property at 222 Boston Street does not wrap around 224, as she remembered. The submitted map appears to be consistent with the easement being used. Keough will submit the proposed sequence/schedule of activities, protocol in case of forecast significant weather events, and forms to be used by the environmental monitor for weekly reports. A request was made to continue the hearing. Luther made a motion to continue the hearing until January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. The motion was seconded by Carroll and passed unanimously.

**NOI #307-0\_\_\_ 123 Salem Road,** (Map 70, Lot 002) Krohg/DSD, Inc.

A written request was received to delay the hearing. The item will be on the January 23<sup>rd</sup> agenda.

#### **REQUESTS:**

**Amended Enforcement Order 9/15/08, 270 Boston Street,** (Map 41, Lot 087) – discussion with Albrights

Present: Bear Albright

MacDougall recused himself from the discussion and left the room. Albright explained that he did not plant the trees he had proposed to plant in December. In addition to what is there presently /observed alive at the June site visit, the EO will be amended to include the new plantings. Albright agreed to the proposed planting of additional trees. If the overstory is established, it will be easier for the area to naturally restore the other vegetation layers. The amended EO will require that the new trees be monitored for one year as of the date of planting. Suggestions were offered to protect the plantings, including using chicken wire to prevent the deer from sharpening their horns on the bark. Trees that are 6-7 feet tall will have a better chance of survival. An as-built plan completed by a surveyor with the conservation markers’ locations identified would be required. Merrill will draft an amended EO with Spillman. If the Albrights agree with the amended Enforcement Order, the TCC will vote on the proposed AEO.

#### **OTHER:**

**DoA 2011-05: Boston Street/Route 1 South, MA DoT Slope Stabilization Project** – update  
Water was streaming into the road at the construction area and created a sandbar downhill on the pavement at the low point of the road, where an Intermittent Stream flows through a culvert under Route 1 to the Putnamville Reservoir. The DoT was notified and the issue was taken care of. The sandbar was removed and a trench was built and filled with gravel at the toe of slope/adjacent to the pavement to help prevent sediment from flowing into the road. This solution should help with average storms; however there is some concern of the effect of a large storm as there are some

nearby BZ and Wetland areas that may be affected. Spillman will ask the DoT for an as-built plan and the situation will be monitored.

**OoC #307-0583: Off Coppermine Road/Ferncroft Country Club Pond Restoration**, (Map 80, Lots 1 & 3) – update

The plantings are in place and will require a site visit in the spring.

**120 High Street/Hickory Beach Subdivision**, (Map 49, Lot 056) – Hale letter, discussion  
Spillman visited the subdivision on December 28, the day after the large storm and the same day the letter was received. She saw several areas of sediment, including deposited next to catch basins, indicating significant drainage and stormwater problems. Because of the number and size of areas of sedimentation problems, it was not possible to identify the source of the sediment that flowed through the BVW behind Mr. Hale’s house. Monitoring will be needed during future major storm events.

Work is starting on the constructed swale and berm at 18 Hickory Lane (Lot 7) authorized with a DoA. The soil on site will be used to make a swale and a berm. A layer of mulch will be added to help stabilize the soil. The water flow is strong and Spillman will request mats be in place. Deposits of sand indicate drainage and stormwater problems. The EPA visited the site recently; the results are not known. Spillman will follow up for an update on the issues.

### **Greenscapes 2013**

Spillman recommended a vote to support the TCC’s contribution of one third of the Greenscapes fee. The THD and TWD are each expected to contribute one third of the total fee, as in previous years. The TCC’s share of the fee will be \$600 and will come from the Bylaw Revolving Fund. Education is an important part of this program which has provided beneficial information to residents. MacDougall recommended offering pamphlets to pet owners to educate about the benefits of following the Greenscapes Program. He explained how Wetland pollution could be reduced by informing pet owners of simple, inexpensive alternatives to property maintenance. This would help eliminate harmful chemicals and could significantly reduce nitrogen loading into our Wetland and river systems. Jolley suggested that pet waste management be the topic for student intern presentation at the Strawberry Festival. MacDougall is designing a tri-fold for the Strawberry Festival that is weather resistant and will be able to withstand the wind.

MacDougall made a motion for the TCC to contribute to the Greenscapes Program and appropriate up to \$600 for the Greenscapes Program and related materials. The motion was seconded by Carroll and passed unanimously.

### **ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

*Updates on current projects include:*

#### **Violation Notice and Warning Ticket – 107 Wenham Road – issued today**

The homeowner is interested in expanding the yard into Riverfront Area. Spillman visited the site and saw bare soil on the entire site, that the sides of the rain garden were collapsing and that soil had eroded on the slope and traveled into the Riverfront Area during the December 27 storm. A Violation Notice was issued requiring that a new sedimentation control line be established and that the slopes be stabilized, e.g. with erosion control matting. The site needs to be stabilized by January 16.

**Meeting with Finance Committee – Monday, February 4, 7 PM, Teacher’s Room at Proctor School**

Spillman will meet with the Finance Committee on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Luther will also attend the meeting.

**Conservation Fund - Conservation Commission Act**

There are properties that would benefit from having boundaries marked, and a land surveyor could be hired to set the markers using the Conservation Fund. MacDougall offered to post boundary markers (Conservation Property markers) for the TCC and will contact the Commission with details on the project for those who would be interested in participating.

**Conservation Land Monitoring Program**

There was discussion on a Conservation Land Use policy.

**Senior Work-off Program**

Ramona Donohue helped out in the office last year and will begin work again this year in February.

**Intern**

Dante Volpacchio may be working up to 10 hours over the next couple of weeks.

**MACC Annual Conference**

The conference will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2013. Spillman told those who may be interested in attending to contact the office. The conference will be paid for by the TCC and scholarships may be available for those who attend for the first time.

**Tree Committee**

The Tree Committee will be on the agenda for the TCC’s next meeting. There will be discussion on an Arbor Day Project.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Luther at 8:55 PM to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by MacDougall and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Rogers  
Minutes Secretary

*Accepted at the TCC meeting on January 23, 2013*

Pursuant to the 'Open Meeting Law,' G.L. 39, § 23B, the approval of these minutes by the Commission constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting, the members present and absent, and the actions taken at the meeting. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion of any matter, is included for the purpose of context only, and no certification, express or implied, is made by the Commission as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.