

Topsfield Conservation Commission
Meeting of Wednesday, June 27, 2012
Topsfield Library Meeting Room

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

Absent: None.

The meeting began at 7:08 PM.

REQUESTS:

RDNI 2012-02: Ipswich River at Rowley Bridge Road Bridge, (Map 55), Topsfield Highway
Dept. /Jacobs Engineering

Spillman explained how this is the second half of the project, at the Rowley Bridge Road Bridge. The existing piers are no longer sufficient for adequate support. The project to restore the bridge will involve pounding metal supports up to 50 feet down into the riverbed of the Ipswich River. The current application is for sample borings. A crane will be brought to the site and will be centered on a special platform situated on the water. The crane will reach over to dig in the necessary areas. The soil types need to be determined so adequate support is planned for piers. A policeman will be onsite at the start of the project to help direct traffic and pedestrians away from the work area. Safety issues are a concern, and sufficient signs to inform the public of the construction need to be in place as the area is used regularly, and those who use the area will need to plan for a detour. The Middleton Stream Team will be contacted since canoes start from Thunder Bridge Beach, and will not be able to pass at Rowley Bridge Road. There was discussion on the need for an emergency spill kit, the importance of stabilizing any disturbed soil before leaving the site, and the benefit of floating an oil boom downstream or other measures to capture any accidental surface oils on the river.

Luther moved to issue the DNI with the appropriate conditions of having spill kits on site and appropriate containment barriers in place for oil spills. In addition, due notice must be given to the canoe and pedestrian community, and to the public at large. Jolley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Continuation CoC 307-0670: 13 South Main Street, (Map 40, Lot 088), Brady
Spillman recommended a motion to issue a CoC with the usual continuing conditions. Luther moved to issue a CoC for 307-0670 at 13 South Main Street with the usual continuing conditions. Merrill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

CoC TCC2007-01: 18 Prospect Street, (Map 40, Lot 092), Gillespie

This was a request under the Bylaw (only) for soil testing in a Buffer Zone with access over an Intermittent Stream. Luther moved to issue a CoC for TCC2007-01 for 18 Prospect Street.

Merrill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Duplicate Original CoC 307-0172: 12 Aaron Drive, (Map 12, Lot 005), Harper

A CoC was issued initially, but never filed at the Registry of Deeds. Spillman explained that the second original document is in the TCC file, but unfortunately there are several errors including a name crossed out/changed on the signature page, the incorrect file number, in addition to incorrect book and page numbers. A motion was made by Luther to issue a corrected CoC for 307-0712:12 Aaron Drive with the appropriate continuing conditions, based on the decision that at the time the work was done, that it was completed in accordance with the OoC. Jolley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OTHER:

Enforcement issues – 270 Boston Street

Several members of the TCC, including Luther, Jolley, Carroll, and Administrator Spillman, visited the site to assess the status of enforcement restoration. They observed there was no forestation. The original trees were planted during a drought, so unfortunately most of the trees did not make it through the drought and the reforestation effort did not work. None of the planted shrubs could be found. There is a thriving vernal pool. Photographs of the site were brought to the meeting. There are requirements remaining, including the proposed planting of twelve 1.5 to 2 dbh trees to reestablish the Canopy layer in the Buffer Zone. These slightly larger trees should be planted by the beginning of October in the area around the vernal pool. The Japanese Knotweed needs to be controlled. Monitoring semi-annually in the spring and fall will help control it at the source. Bittersweet is growing abundantly. The conservation posts need to be installed. A final monitoring report with photos and topography needs to be submitted. Spillman will write a letter addressing these issues, including reforestation (tree planting), the installation of conservation posts, knotweed control, site monitoring and a final plan.

Notice of Intent to sell 61A Land at 120 Hill Street (Lot 2)

There was discussion of how a 61A designation offers agricultural protection and how the town has the option to decide if it is interested in the property. Spillman explained that there has been no formal delineation, and that the Wetlands likely extend beyond the boundaries shown on the informal plan. The TCC will discuss the value of the property, including its features and resource areas, with the Open Space Committee, to help determine its value to the Town.

Potential Dam Removal Project

Erickson has looked into the potential dam removal project and discussed the project with a local company. They can provide some of the hydrological survey and a similar assessment for wetlands. It would cost \$10,000 to \$15,000 for a survey to determine if the dam will affect Town wells. Erickson is looking into the possibility of working with a grant writer to apply for grants to support the project. FEMA is a potential source of funding. MacDougall has engineering interns who may be willing to do a topographic study of the dam above and below the water, and create a map of the dam area. The TCC will send a letter to the Town Water Commissioners to let them know they are looking into the benefits of keeping the dam versus removing the dam. A feasibility study would be beneficial as it would consider important issues such as the condition of the dam; how it affects local wells, wildlife, etc.; and the impact of removing the dam.

Revised Topsfield Stormwater and Erosion Control Bylaw – discussion with the TPB

Present: Steve Hall and Martha Morrison of the TPB

Members of the TPB were present for a discussion on the revised Topsfield Stormwater and Erosion Control Bylaw. The Bylaw was approved and rules and regulations are now needed to apply and exercise the Bylaw. The TPB would like to write the rules soon to meet the July deadline for the TPB meeting. Regulatory language is needed to enforce the soil maps prepared by MacDougall and Luther. As an example, locations in the red zone would need soil borings to determine soil types and address the runoff of stormwater. The TPB needs to send in the ad by Friday so it will appear next Tuesday. The language will be confined to soils issues. Luther offered to prepare a draft using the most recent language of the Stormwater and Erosion Control Bylaw. There was discussion on the benefit of posting the new rules and regulations online, and how to provide information to the public, including mailing lists. It was suggested that a building link be set up on the Town of Topsfield website with information that would create awareness of important issues, and educate consultants and land attorneys so they could better represent their clients.

MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Luther to accept the minutes from the meeting on **June 13, 2012** as amended. Merrill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

New Department Secretary

Spillman received approval to hire a new department secretary as Joan Abare resigned effective June 25, 2012. Pauline Doody started today as the new department secretary.

Vernal Pools recently certified by NHESP

Spillman said the TCC has received notification from NHESP that two pools are now certified vernal pools. The pools are located at Klock Park and 20 Arrowhead Road. There was discussion

on the proposed online vernal pool certification process and the necessary forms that will be required to certify pools in the future.

Computer for the Administrator

The new computer for the Administrator has arrived and is in the process of being set up. This includes transferring photos, maps, etc. from the old computer to the new system.

Pheasant Lane Land Swap

The House and Senate have passed the bill, and Governor Duval Patrick will sign the bill soon. Spillman was contacted by a Legislative intern inquiring about pertinent information to pass on when presenting the bill to the Governor.

Greenscapes

Greenscapes Guides were passed out at the meeting. MacDougall noted how the publication is filled with informative articles explaining how to help save Resource Areas.

TCC Reappointments

MacDougall agreed to a reappointment for a two-year term and accepted the remainder of Hall's position. Jolley and MacDougall will need to be sworn in before the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Luther to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 PM. Carroll seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Rogers
Minutes Secretary

Accepted at the TCC meeting on July 18, 2012

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.