Topsfield Conservation Commission
Minutes
Meeting held August 21st, 2013
Topsfield Town Library Meeting Room

Present: Commissioners Jennie Merrill, Jim MacDougall, Jim Carroll, Holger Luther. TCC Administrator Lana Spillman
Absent: Cheryl Jolley (two vacancies on the TCC).

In attendance: James MacDowell, Lawrence Beals, Gary Patch, Dick Gandt, Maureen Bresnahan, Steven Harder, Kate Kennedy, others.

At 7:06 PM there being a quorum, Chairperson Merrill opened the meeting:

HEARINGS:

Continuation NOI: #307-0701, (Lot 1), 125 Boston Street, (Map 64, Lot 005), 77 Salem Road, LLC/The Neve-Morin Group, Inc. It was recommended to continue the hearing until Sept. 11th. A motion was made by Luther to continue the hearing to 9/11/13; it was seconded by MacDougall. The motion was approved.

Continuation RDA #2013-11: 124 Hill Street, (Lot 1), (Map 68, Lot 049), Iovanella/ MacDowell. Luther noted that the stormwater runoff analysis of the site revealed that the site has no fragipan horizon down to 60 inches, and that the 100-year rainstorm event post-development peak flow at the invert of the Hill Street culvert is less than that computed for the pre-development in the presence of the detention ponds and onsite cisterns located on the lot. The lot drainage design therefore meets the Mass. Stormwater Regulations Standards. MacDowell passed along a sketch of the settling basin in front of the Hill Street culvert invert that was requested by the Topsfield Highway Department. Neighbor Harder of 125 Hill inquired about the disposition of the intermittent stream. MacDowell stated that the stream flow had been taken into account by the model. There being no further questions, Luther moved to close the hearing. Carroll seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Luther then moved that the TCC issue a Negative Determination for the development as shown on the plan presented at the hearing (rev. 2, dated 7/25/13) subject to the usual conditions. MacDougall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Continuation NOI #307-0707: 3 Beech Place, a.k.a. Lot 23 at Hickory Beech Subdivision, (Map 50, Lot 037), Patch Development LLC/Beals Associates, Inc. Beals has requested the withdrawal of the NoI "without prejudice". Accordingly Luther made a motion to dismiss the NoI without prejudice. The motion was seconded by Carroll and approved unanimously.

2nd AOoCs #307-0522: 3 Beech Place, a.k.a. Lot 23 at Hickory Beech Subdivision, (Map 50, Lot 037), Patch Development LLC/Beals Associates, Inc. Beals presented a plan revised from the approved and subsequently amended plan (OoCs 307-0552 and 307-0522B) for a single-family dwelling and septic system, etc. The plan features additional lawn of approximately 2,200

sq. ft. to be planted in the outer 50-foot section of the buffer zone and the construction of a deck on Sonotube piers at the rear of the house that projects nearly entirely into the buffer zone. In addition, he proposes to remove 6 mature pine trees that stand very close to the house to be built. As remediation he offers a hedge of 24 trees and bushes made up of gray dogwood, winterberry and serviceberry bushes, red maples, and similar plantings listed on the plan. This hedge would be planted near the 50-foot line of the buffer zone to form a barrier between development and resource areas. Additionally he would pave the driveway with pervious pavement to minimize runoff and the use of salt and sand in the winter. He noted that some of the wetland flags had been refreshed in the same locations as originally placed in 2004, and that a site visit with TCC members had taken place.
Since the July meeting, members who were not present at that meeting have listened to the transcript of the previous hearing and are therefore eligible to vote on the merits of the proposed amendment. Luther inquired how a similar hedge row of plantings on 20 Hickory Beech (Lot 8) fared since it was approved in 2010. Beals volunteered to provide a report on that question to the TCC. The concern is that deer will gnaw these plantings to death in the winter. Thus measures are required to prevent that. Spillman asked about the area of the driveway and associated fill/grading that was constructed in the buffer zone on this property, as it was previous buffer zone alteration on the lot. Beals noted that it is about 2400 sq. ft. that was approved by the TCC previously under the OoC. There being no further question, Luther moved that the TCC waive its Regulation R:10-4. e. pursuant to the provisions set forth in R:10-4. i. (b) based on the two mitigating proposals Beals offered. MacDougall seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Luther then moved to issue the amendments to OoCs 307-0522 and 307-0522B as shown in the plan presented at the hearing (dated 6/12/2013). MacDougall seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously. TCC asked for conditions including a 2-year planting review/inspection and a certificate from the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association to certify that the material used on the driveway is pervious pavement.

NoI 307-????: 9 River Road, (Map 57, lot 002), Hardy
DEP-NERO has not issued a case number as yet, so the hearing must be continued until Sept. 11th. Spillman noted there were no concerns relative to the project. Luther moved to continue the hearing to September 11. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

RDA #2013-13: 24 Asbury Street, Lamson House Barn/Garage, (Map 21, Lot 017), Finn/MA DCR No action was required by the TCC as the Emergency Certification for that work was authorized by a vote of the TCC at the meeting on July 17th.

<u>REQUESTS</u>:

CoC #307-0401: 9 River Road, (Map 57, Lot 002), Hardy/Hancock Associates, Inc.
CoC #307-0483: 9 River Road, (Map 57, Lot 002), Hardy/Hancock Associates, Inc.
Luther moved to issue the CoCs relative to these case numbers with a continuing condition of allowing mowing the wet meadows twice annually. Carroll seconded the motion that was approved unanimously.

Partial CoC# 307-0083: 13 Pheasant Lane/Lot 12A, (Map 11, Lot 005), Anastasio
Partial CoC# 307-0084: 13 Pheasant Lane/Lot 12A, (Map 11, Lot 005), Anastasio
Luther moved to approve the partial CoCs based on the OoC's on file with the TCC and the fact that there are no areas or structures within TCC jurisdiction on this property. Carroll seconded the motion that was approved unanimously.

RDNI #2013-13: 167 High Street, Topsfield Fair Fireworks Site. This is the site that was approved by the TCC last year. Luther moved to make a Determination of Negligible Impact for the proposed activity at 167 High Street; Carroll seconded the motion that was approved unanimously.

RDNI #2013-14: Topsfield Library, 1 South Common Street, (Map 33, Lot 038), Eagle Scout Project, Evaul. Ryan Evaul explained that his Eagle Scout project would consist of installing a stone paver path from the staff entrance to the staff parking lot, within Buffer Zone and Riverfront Area of School Brook. The path would be pervious to rainfall. Luther moved to waive the fee for this DNI; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Luther moved to issue a Determination of Negligible Impact. MacDougall seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES:
Meeting of July 17th, 2013
MacDougall made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Carroll and passed unanimously.

OTHER:
Invasive Plant Management and Planting Plan, 307-0693: 14 Grove Street, (Map 40, Lot 013), Audette. Mr. Audette, who was not present, has expressed a reluctance to purchase the plants called for to replace the knotweed next to Cleveland Brook. MacDougall noted that a very cost effective planting project would consist of purchasing sticks of bank willow, red osier dogwood, and silky dogwood for about $4 per stick and insert them into the soil in the fall, to become established by the next spring. The resulting growth will discourage the re-growth of knotweed and provide an attractive hedge of dogwood and pussy-willows along the brook. The undesirable yellow nut sedges could be eliminated with a heavy overseeding, for example with Essex County No. 2 or rye.

362 Boston Street Conservation Property, (Map 26, Lot 001), MacDougall – Draft Management Plan for discussion. MacDougall noted that the lot contains a number of attractive plant species such as Green Ash, Wild Cherry, Pig-nut Hickory, Ailanthus, and others. He outlined a management plan that would mostly be executed by TCC members. In addition he recommended that the hemlocks be sprayed with dormant oil to kill the adelgid infestation. He also stated that he lives sufficiently close to allow him to drive his tractor equipped with a brush hog to do the initial mowing of the lot. His report was accepted without dissent.

120 High Street/Hickory Beach Subdivision, (Maps 42, 49, 50, & 58) – stormwater management and drainage, recent site visits, and updates. Spillman reported on the latest developments relative to the stormwater management issues in the subdivision.

Hood's Pond, (Map 2, Lot 010) – invasive plant management discussion.
Maureen Bresnahan of 1 Pond Street appeared to inquire about the eradication of purple loosestrife, water chestnuts, pond lilies, etc. MacDougall gave her a dissertation on the brown bugs released a few years ago to manage the Purple Loosestrife, and he noted that he is policing the pond for the Asian Water Chestnut- a very bad invasive. He recommended that Bresnahan join the community of concerned pond residents to form a committee to police the pond for adverse events such as septic pollution, invasive plants, etc.

Revisions to Topsfield Bylaw Regulations, report.
The chairman reported that she has finished her review and edit of the draft to be reviewed by members.

Intern Kennedy Report:
Kennedy reported on the possible logo design options for TCC/conservation properties. She was advised that it needs to be colorful and eye-catching with designs such as eastern swallowtail butterflies or monarchs.

Adjournment
Luther moved to adjourn at 9:30. The motion was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted:
Holger Luther

Accepted at the TCC meeting on September 25, 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.