

Topsfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Wednesday, November 14, 2012
Topsfield Library Meeting Room

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

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM with a quorum present.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Continuation NoI 307-0693: 14 Grove Street, (Map 40, Lot 013), Peterson/McKenzie Engineering

Present: Scott Henderson, McKenzie Engineering Group; Bryant and Kathleen Robinson of 16 Grove Street

A continuation was held for Public Hearing NoI 307-0693, 14 Grove Street. The proposed replacement plantings of native trees were added to the plan. The adjacent tree located mostly on the abutting lot owned by Bryant and Kathleen Robinson should not be affected by the project. The deactivated well on the Robinson's property is located over 45 feet from the property line and over 100 feet from the proposed septic system. The BoH approved the septic system plan. Two trees and some invasive species will be removed. TCC Commissioners Carroll, Erickson, and MacDougall listened to the audio recording of the hearing on October 10, 2012, allowing all of the Commissioners to be eligible to vote.

A motion was made by Luther to close the hearing. It was seconded by Jolley and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Luther to permit the demolition of the existing structures, and permit the proposed activities including installation of a new septic system in accordance with the revised septic system design plan from McKenzie Engineering dated November 5, 2012 by issuance of an Order of Conditions under the Act and the Bylaw. Carroll seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

NoI 307-0694: 7 Parsonage Lane, (Map 32, Lot 100) Newcomb/Scanlan Engineering

Present: Jim Scanlan, Scanlan Engineering, LLC; Peter and Gail Newcomb of 7 Parsonage Lane; Thomas Ryan of 5 Parsonage Lane

A Public Hearing for NoI 307-0694, 7 Parsonage Lane, was held to consider a septic system upgrade in Buffer Zone of BVW. Proof of abutter notification was received. Jim Scanlan from Scanlan Engineering presented a plan on behalf of the Newcombs. The proposed project will replace the existing failed septic system. The new system will include a septic tank, pump chamber, and leaching field. The site has considerable ledge and they were unable to identify soil depths. The proposed system will be a slightly raised system, about 2.5 feet above grade, located on a slope. Erosion control barriers, including a silt fence, will be in place. Spillman discussed that the southern portion of the wetland looks very much like a vernal pool. The TCC recommended the erosion controls be removed by early spring, as soon as they have served their function so that species using the vernal pool could migrate. The time frame includes completing the project by the end of this year.

A motion was made by Luther to close the hearing. Jolley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Luther made a motion to issue an Order of Conditions for the installation of the septic system in accordance with the submitted plan for 7 Parsonage Lane dated October 5, 2012, subject to the usual conditions. Any disturbed areas should be covered, and as soon as possible these barriers should be removed so vernal pool species can migrate. Merrill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OTHER:

OoC 307-0678: 207 Boston Street/Topsfield Fairgrounds – Discussion with Fairgrounds Present: Greg Hochmuth, Hancock Associates; Jim O’Brien, Topsfield Fairgrounds Hochmuth summarized events and problems of this year, explained how they are working to restore the Fairgrounds, and that they are making progress. The TCC office received a plan identifying the monitoring well locations. Luther recommended reusable mud mats to protect the grounds from vehicle parking damage next year and instead of placing soil in the floodplain. Hochmuth said the mats will be considered, and the finished repair grades are close to the original grades. O’Brien explained that this year there were 8 days of rain, but no measurable rain, whereas last year the river came up because of 6 inches of rain. There was discussion about the usefulness of the monitoring wells. Hochmuth will write a summary of events this year and present information on how to improve the situation for next year.

MEETING MINUTES:

MacDougall made a motion to approve the minutes from October 24, 2012 as amended. The motion was seconded by Jolley and passed unanimously.

REQUEST:

CoC #307-0270: 9 New Meadow Lane, (Map 11, Lot 062), Lepke/Hancock Associates Spillman explained how the property is in compliance, although she visited the site and found the grounds crew blowing leaves into Wetlands and Land Subject to Flooding/Nichols Brook. An upland composting area at the far end of the property will be used in the future for leaves and grass clippings.

Luther made a motion to issue a CoC for 9 New Meadows Lane with Continuing Conditions, and the added condition of not blowing leaves into Wetlands areas. The motion was seconded by Merrill and passed unanimously.

Emergency Certification #2012-02: 52 Prospect Street, (Map 48, Lot 005), Geller – ratification Spillman visited the site and explained how Emergency Certification was necessary due to significant tree damage from Tropical Storm Sandy. This was issued under the DEP special certification process for immediate tree removal. There was significant damage from three fallen pine trees to structures on the property.

A motion was made by Luther to ratify Emergency Certification #2012-02. The motion was seconded by Merrill and passed unanimously.

OTHER

AOoC 2006-01: 72 Hill Street, (Map 69, Lot 016) – Status update

The request for a CoC had errors. Spillman explained how corrections are needed before the request can be considered.

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

Reportedly, steps have been taken to stabilize the area near the stream. They reported that they are working on the plantings on the hill. Spillman will plan a follow up visit after the plants are in. They would like a CoC as soon as the requirements are completed.

DoA 2011-05: High Street/South Route 1 Slope Stabilization, MA DoT – update and discussion

The work was delayed because of weather, including Tropical Storm Sandy and the following storm. Spillman requested the revised plans showing elimination of the berm at the top of slope. There has not been a stormwater review by the TPB. Luther explained how MA DoT may not be constrained by local bylaw. There is a signed work agreement, but no easement. Sedimentation controls, including stone, are in place. Spillman will follow up on changes to the current plan.

Revisions to Topsfield Wetlands Bylaw Regulations – discussion

Revision 3 is the current version the TCC is working on. Luther will go through the documents and start reviewing a new section.

Government Review Committee proposal – update

There was discussion on the GRC proposal and the role of the TCC in the process. Luther is participating on the GRC.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Spillman has received complaints about several sites where brush and leaves are being placed in Wetland areas. She will contact Dave Bond at the THD about placing signs prohibiting the dumping of brush, leaves, etc. on areas of concern to the TCC.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Luther 8:19 PM to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Merrill and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Rogers
Minutes Secretary

Accepted at the TCC meeting on November 28, 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.