

Montague Conservation Commission

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MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 9, 2010

Commissioners Present: Mark Fairbrother - Chair, Donna Petersen, Deb Picking, Donna Francis, Addie Holland, Sean Werle.
Walter Ramsey – Montague Town Planner/Conservation Agent.

Approval of Minutes: August 12, 2010

Minutes from August 12 were NOT approved because the minutes are being pieced together from various sources. Addie's comments need to be incorporated into the next draft. A complete draft will be available at the October 2010 meeting.

Discussion:

Paul Daniello, project manager with Mt. Grace Land Trust was in to discuss a project for obtaining a conservation restriction (CR) on the Hinson-Bauman parcels off Chestnut Hill Loop [map 53, lots 45, 80, 46,35,36,33]. Mt. Grace is working with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Forest Legacy Program to protect approximately 2800 acres of land along the Metacomet-Monadnock corridor. One of the projects in this grant is in Montague. The landowners, Hinson and Bauman, have tentatively agreed to sell a conservation restriction based upon the CR value as determined by an appraisal which is underway. Mt. Grace is not asking for any financial assistance from the Town, but Montague may be asked to be the holder of the conservation restriction, which would require an annual inspection of the property to ensure the CR conditions are being maintained. Mt. Grace would provide the Town with training for administering the CR. Advised Mr. Daniello that Montague Town Meeting would need to approve accepting the CR at *annual* meeting.

Motion by Deb Picking to authorize the Conservation Agent to draft and send a letter of support for this project to the DCR Forest Legacy Program. Second by Sean Werle. All voted in favor. (letter attached).

Update: Richardson Road Beaver Pond Meetings (Map 53, lot 44). Mark gave the commission an update recapping recent community meetings held by the Northeast Utilities to gauge public sentiment on what to do at the site. Mark summarized the two public meetings held in Leverett and Montague. Public comments ranged from "don't touch the pond level" to "drain the pond and keep it drained". The Utility is considering two or three plans for repairing the line at that location, and will probably be approaching the two Towns with a final plan after the first of the year. They anticipate drawing the water level in the pond down an as yet undetermined amount this fall in preparation of doing the work.

Upcoming Business: Lisa Guilbault – Dry Hill Road (Map 45 Lot 59) – Mr. Ramsey gave an overview of what Ms Guilbault preliminary plans to add a garage to the existing house in a Riverfront Area. She had not formally submitted plans to the Commission at the time of the meeting. The original NOI (07-01), filed 2001 to construct the house, was reviewed and a discussion ensued as to what the procedure for permitting the new structure would be under the WPA. It was noted that the original NOI (07-01) has not had a Certificate of Compliance issued. Mr. Ramsey was instructed to advise Ms. Guilbault to request a Certificate of Compliance to close out the original NOI and that she will need to file a new NOI for the proposed work.

Upcoming Business: Patrick Currie – Camp Road shed construction. Mr. Ramsey gave an overview of the inquiry from Mr. Currie. NU has given permission for the construction of an 8'x10' shed. The location is

in the Riverfront area; the board discussed how the request should be dealt with under the WPA. Mr. Ramsey was instructed to advise Mr. Currie to file an RDA.

Upcoming Business: Kerry Meelia – East Chestnut Hill Road (Map 52, Lot 76) Mr. Ramsey gave an overview of the inquiry from Ms. Meelia. She intends build new house outside the resource area, but the driveway would be in Riverfront Area. The driveway would use an abandoned logging road, which is suspected to have been unregulated by the previous user. Mr. Ramsey has advised her to submit an RDA to the commission for further review. The commission agreed with this.

Upcoming Business: Justin Fermann – Randallwood Drive (Map 20, Lot 33) clearing land for a personal garden approximately 100' x 80' within the 200' Riverfront Area. Mr. Ramsey has visited the site and gave an overview of Mr. Fermann's conceptual plans. The commission reviewed a rough map layout of the area and discussed limits of work and access. Mr. Ramsey was instructed to advise Mr. Fermann to submit an RDA for the project.

Upcoming Business: NOI #2010-01 Distefano- 53 Center Street (Map 44, Lot 52,79) Mr. Ramsey announced that the NOI was submitted to the Commission on 9/9/2010. He distributed copies of the NOI to commissioners. It is anticipated that the public hearing will be scheduled for 9/14/2010.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM by Addie Holland, seconded by Sean Werle, all present voted in favor.

Next scheduled meeting: October 14, 2010 at 6:30 PM

Approved by: _____ Date: _____