

Montague Conservation Commission

One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
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MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 9, 2016 – 6:30 pm

Upstairs Meeting Room, Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

Commissioners Present: Mark Fairbrother - Chair, Alex Peterkin, Addie Rose Holland, Donna Francis, Deb Henson and Sean Werle.

Commissioners Absent: Justin Fermann

Staff: Walter Ramsey – Conservation Agent

Mark Fairbrother called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Approval of Minutes: September 8, 2016 Minutes

Motion made by Alex Peterkin to accept the October 13, 2016 minutes as amended. Seconded by Mark Fairbrother. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes: October 13, 2016 Minutes

Motion made by Addie Rose Holland to accept the October 13, 2016 minutes as amended. Seconded by Sean Werle **Motion passed unanimously.**

Request for Certificate of Compliance DEP File 229-0219 NOI #2007-05 by Hillside Plastics

Guest: Christina Hoffman, Consultant- Environmental Resources Management

On behalf of Hillside Plastics, Inc., Environmental Resources Management submitted a Request for Certificate of Compliance (COC) for the property modifications at Hillside Plastics, Inc. in Turners Falls, MA. The request was submitted in accordance with Condition #11 in the Order of Conditions (OOC) issued under Protection (MassDEP) File #229-0219, issued in 2008. ERM requested that the Montague Conservation Commission issue a Complete Certification. Work completed on the property as of the date of this request for COC includes:

- The construction of the approximately 30,000 square-foot building expansion with parking lot re-grading;
- Construction of the stone weir structure;
- Permanent protection of the 17-acre open space area as turtle habitat;
- Construction of the new gravel storage trailer parking pad on top of the hill south of the facility; and
- Restoration of approximately 100 square feet of previously filled wetland.

Work no longer proposed and thus not completed includes:

- Paving of the existing employee parking lot east of the building

Photographs of work conducted within wetlands and 100-foot buffer zones. The personnel who prepared the Notice of Intent and oversaw construction are no longer available at Hillside Plastics, Inc.; therefore, ERM performed the following tasks:

- Reviewed the Notice of Intent, including approved drawings, to determine the work proposed within jurisdictional areas;
- Spoke with personnel at Hillside Plastics who recall the construction period;
- Conducted site visits in March and October 2016 to review the current status of the project in relation to what was authorized under the OOC;
- Confirmed with the engineer who conducted the stormwater calculations in the original NOI that the work was conducted in general conformance with that presented in the NOI; and
- Reviewed available project documentation.

Based on these evaluations, the stone weir, new gravel storage trailer parking pad, and wetland restoration activities were completed. As confirmed with the Conservation Agent in January 2016, construction of the building addition was located outside of any resource areas and the 100-foot buffer zone once the southernmost roof drain on the west side of the building addition was rerouted to avoid trenching within the 100-foot Buffer Zone during construction; therefore, the original Order of Conditions did not need to be extended and no new filing was required. This COC request mentions the building addition for the sake of completeness in requesting a Complete Certificate of Compliance. The wetland restoration took place in 2016 with removal of the stones and planting and seeding in April 2016. Despite the unusually dry growing season, the six alders (*Alnus rugosa*) planted survived and were healthy during an inspection in October 2016. While deer browse was evident, the shrubs still had leaves and remained healthy. Additional wetland species observed during the inspection included sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), bristly dewberry (*Rubus hispidus*), smartweed (*Polygonum* sp.), crowned beggarticks (*Bidens trichosperma*), lettuce (*Lactuca* sp.), and an unidentified grass. No evidence of invasive species was noted. The area contained over 95 percent cover with a preponderance of wetland species.

Agent confirmed this by attending a site visit with Ms Hoffman and a representative from Hillside Plastics on 11/9/2016.

Motion made by Sean Werle to issue a Certificate of Compliance for Hillside Plastics. Seconded by Addie Rose Holland. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Open Space and Recreation Plan Workshop:

The Commission reviewed the results of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey. The survey closed on November 1, 2016 and the Planning Department received 206 responses which is approximately 2.5% of the population of the Town.

Addie asked for the Planner to reach out to individuals who provided contact information on the survey to see how we may utilize their talents.

The survey results will be incorporated into the plan and a summary will be written up regarding the survey.

2017 Meeting Schedule:

The commission will continue to meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month for 2017. Clerk will post the annual meeting schedule.

Motion made by Donna Francis to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM. Seconded by Addie Rose Holland.
Motion passed unanimously.

Approved by: _____ **Date:** _____

Exhibits:

OSRP DRAFT Survey Results