

Minutes of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission
July 27, 2009

Present: MD: Marshall Dennis, Chairman CP: Christopher Picone
 LD: Lorraine DeSouza LC: Lori Capone, Conservation Agent

7:30 PM MD opened the meeting of the Conservation Commission under M.G.L. Ch 131, Sect. 40 and in accordance with the Ashburnham Wetlands Protection Bylaw

7:31 PM MD opened the Hearing for the Lower Naukeag Lake Association to amend their Orders of Conditions to allow a 4-foot drawdown on odd years and a 2-foot drawdown on even years, to commence no earlier than October 15th of each year. Glenn Niinimaki represented the Lake Association. Stan Herriot was also present. Mr. Niinimaki explained that Lower Naukeag never received a 4-foot drawdown last winter and they would like to attempt a 4-foot again this year. The Commission explained that it appeared that it was partially due to the fact that Lake Watatic drew down their lake without permission. LC informed the Commission that Lake Watatic was supposed to file with the Commission after their summer meeting regarding the drawdown. MD suggested allowing the lakes to draw down on alternate years. MD asked if locks could be placed on all Town dams to prevent this from happening in the future.

MD: Motion to close

LD: Seconded the Motion

Motion carried unanimously 3-0

MD: Motion to amend the Order of Conditions to allow a 4-foot drawdown on odd years and a 2-foot drawdown on even years, to commence no earlier than October 15th. The Commission will monitor the affects of the earlier start date.

LD: Seconded the Motion

Motion carried unanimously 3-0

Other Business:

- LD requested LC investigate some tree clearing activities at 116 Lakeshore Drive. LC visited the site and determined that the clearing was being performed more than 100 feet from the lake. No action was necessary.
- LC noticed some work being performed near a wetland at 68 Center Street, specifically the minor dredging of the stream and removal of vegetation from the bank. The Commission requested an RDA be filed for this work.
- LC presented a Determination of Negligible Impact for 31 Noel Drive to install a retaining wall approximately 50 feet from the lake. All work is to be performed by hand.
LD: Motion to approve the Determination of Negligible Impact for 31 Noel Drive
CP: Seconded the Motion
Motion carried unanimously 3-0

- LC presented a request for an Extension for Lot B Wagg Road. LC explained that the Order was for the construction of a single family house which has not commenced yet. The homeowner has requested a one year extension. LD requested that a new line of erosion controls be installed and inspected prior to commencement of work.\
- CP: Motion to extend the Order for one year
- LD: Seconded the Motion
- Motion carried unanimously 3-0

- CP: Motion to approve the minutes of May 26, 2009
- MD: Seconded the Motion
- Motion carried unanimously 3-0

- The Commission discussed the need for a way for them to be contacted from Wednesday-Sunday for inspections and emergencies. The Commission decided to ask the Land Use Administrator if she would be willing to forward any emails to the Chairman. LC will ask Sylvia for permission.

- LC presented a request for 5 Cote Avenue concerning a drainage issue in her yards due to her septic system. The Commission requested the drainage not be diverted towards the adjacent stream due to the fact that if the septic system fails, the leachate will discharge directed into the stream. The Commission suggested a water feature or rain garden.

- LD requested that the Commission investigate whether there still exists a Conservation Fund and if so, see if monies may be allocated towards the purchase of Mount Hunger. MD will write a letter to the Town Accountant requesting account information for all monies under the control of the Conservation Commission and request a monthly status report on each account.

- The Commission discussed the duties and work schedule of the Agent. LD was concerned that when she came in to ask LC to go out and check a possible wetlands violation that LC was responding to a request to complete a grant that seemed to be out of the purview of the Agent's responsibilities. The Commission discussed contacting the TA to discuss chains of command so as not to put the Agent in the middle and having to deal with cross directives.

MD: Motion to adjourn

LD: Seconded the Motion

Motion carried unanimously 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 PM

Respectfully submitted by Lori Capone, Conservation Agent