

**Worthington Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
September 16, 2014**

1 Attendance

1.1 Members

Andrew Madden, Jim Molyneux, Ed Lewis, Adam Leach, Peg O'Neal

1.2 Guests

Mark Stinson (DEP), John Morgan (ANRAD project manager for CHA Consultants Consulting, Nowell, Mass), John Greaves (CHA Consultants)

2 Public Hearing- RT 143 ANRAD (Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation)

Ed Lewis opened the at 7:00

Mr. Lewis explained procedure for the hearing and gave an overview of the ANRAD. Mr. Morgan explained that the RT 143 project is a state funded project to be built to MASSDOT standards. It will include 7.5 miles of highway in the Town of Worthington. The timeline and the extent of the construction work is still unknown at this time, but may include widening of the road and changes to drainage. CHA Consultants are working towards a 25% construction design submittal. Resource areas included in the ANRAD submission were delineated in the summer of 2013 by Jay Hall and John Greaves of CHA. Delineations included approximately 10,000 linear feet of bank and 15,000 linear feet of wetland boundary. Mr. Morgan identified for the Commission a section of drainage along RT 143 near Dingle Road where the wetland delineation by CHA was questioned by MASSDOT. MASSDOT does not believe that area is wetland. Discussion from Commission members agreed with CHA that it was likely wetland because previous projects in the area had identified wetland resources at the site. Mr. Lewis opened the floor for comments and questions from commission members.

Mr. Madden disclosed that he is employed by the Commonwealth and will recuse if the commission wishes. Commission determined that it is not necessary at this time because the ANRAD is submitted by the town and not the State.

Mark Stinson commented that the data sheet had some incorrect entries regarding wetland plants, specifically Eastern Hemlock. He further explained that an approved ANRD locks the boundaries in place for 3 years. The Commission would have options to extend at the end of

the three year period. He also explained that the Commission has a number of options including approval, rejection, or site specific approval of sections. In response to a question from the Commission, Mr. Morgan explained that MASSDOT will be holding a public hearing on the design plan for the project at some future point.

No members of the public were present so no comments were made during the public comment portion of the hearing.

Peg O'Neal departed at 7:26 because of select board commitment. Mr. Lewis pointed out the lack of symbol legend and requested that be addressed. He further recommended the identified boundaries on the plan be tied to UTM coordinates to assist the Commission in identifying locations. Mr. Lewis asked CHA to show plot locations on the maps and GPS coordinates (or similar GIS based illustration) of flagging to ensure that boundaries are identifiable even with loss of flags on the ground.

A discussion followed among the commission members how best to review the ANRAD submittal. Options available to the commission were discussed including: hiring an outside consultant to review the project, looking at a subsample of areas for confirmation, and walking selected sites with CHA to review (which they agreed to do if requested). No decisions on these options were made at this time.

Mr. Lewis suggested continuing the hearing to our next meeting on 10/21/2014 pending additional submittals for CHA. The Commission requested that CHA produce materials addressing issues and recommendations to be submitted to Peg O'Neal at the town offices with a date of 10/1/14. Mr. Morgan agreed. Mr. Madden made a motion to continue the hearing until the October Meeting. Mr. Leach seconded and the motion carried. A motion was made, seconded and approved to close the hearing portion of the Commission meeting.

3 Old Business

Draft minutes of the August 19th meeting were reviewed. A motion was made (Madden), seconded (Leach), and carried to approve the meeting minutes as submitted.

June minutes have not been submitted.

Starkweather Road cutting plan – Mr. Madden received 2 calls about the stream crossing at the site of the cutting plan on Starkweather Road. Mr. Madden contacted Sean Libbey, DCR service forester. Mr. Libbey has been to the site and is in the process of addressing some deficiencies at the site.

Building permit - 10 Conwell Road. The commission has no interest in this item because it is not jurisdictional. A discussion followed about the Commission's role in the building permit process. Mark Stinson suggested that the Conservation Commission involvement in building permits varies from town to town but he supports commission notification.

Sam Hill Road Bridge closure – No action at this point.

4 New Business

Here was no new business before the Commission

The meeting adjourned at 8:25