

Worthington Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
June 18, 2015

## **1 Call to Order**

The meeting convened at 06/18/2015 06:57:31 PM

## **2 Attendance**

Members: Andrew Madden, Peggy O'Neal, Virginia Sowers, Mary Gerken-Newcomb, Jim Molyneux, Ed Lewis

Guest: John Coté

## **3 Old Business**

### **3.1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Ms. O'Neal offered a motion that Mr. Madden seconded that the commission accept the minutes of the May 21, 2015 meeting as presented. The commission approved the motion unanimously.

### **3.2 Membership**

Welcome to new member Virginia Sowers

Dawn Flatt resigned from the commission. The selectmen appointed Ms. Sowers to replace Ms. Flatt.

The commission has received no communication from Adam Leach on whether or not he wishes to remain on the commission.

Ms. O'Neal agreed to contact Mr. Leach again so the selectmen can be in a position to decide on a course of action relative to Mr. Leach in advance of their June 30 meeting.

A Diana Noble has expressed interest in joining the commission.

## **4 New Business**

### **4.1 Mail**

The Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) has issued their invoice for membership dues for FY 16 (July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016). Dues are \$183.

Mr. Madden offered a motion that Mr. Lewis seconded that the commission pay the invoice. Ms. Gerken-Newcomb agreed to to complete the dues application and secure payment through the Town Treasurer.

It was agreed that we would hold off on action until after June 30 so the roster of members is as up-to-date as possible.

### **4.2 Land at 709 Huntington Road**

Mr. Coté approached the commission to discuss land at 709 Huntington Road<sup>1</sup> near 42.367542°, -72.909947° which lies generally between SH-112 and the Little River.

Mr. Coté is concerned with the changing course of the river in its floodplain and is exploring options to straighten the river or harden the banks to prevent or curtail the river from changing its course. He explained a significant migration of a meander that followed the Hurricane of 2011 (Irene).

Commissioners explained that he will need to get an engineering design which would support a notice of intent application. The work could be fairly complex from a permitting standpoint as it involves working in a least four resource areas (land under water, bank, bordering vegetated wetland and riverfront). The work will also involve an interface with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NH&ESP) due to the known presence of endangered species or their habitat.

Because the shifting river could impact SH-112, the State of Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT) could have an interest and support the design, permitting and funding effort. The Westfield River Wild and Scenic Committee of which Ms. Sowers is a member may also be able to lend assistance.

Mr. Madden agreed to send Mr. Coté contact information with the DOT.

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<sup>1</sup>Where Charlie Baker lived for many years.

### **4.3 Forest Cutting Plans**

The commission is in receipt of a cutting plan on the land of Stephen Pierce, 17 Bailey Road. A William Van Doren of Greenfield, MA prepared the plan which has yet to be certified by a state forester. The entrance is in Chester, the land is in Worthington. The commission has no comments on the plan at this time. Mr. Madden explained that the land may be located in an NH&ESP-controlled area. The NH&ESP is expected to make its comments, if any, separately.

### **4.4 Land at 4 South Worthington Road**

A Ms. Gloria Conwell is considering the purchase of land and buildings at 4 South Worthington Road at 42.343891<sup>o</sup>, -72.890209<sup>o</sup> <sup>2</sup> Ms. Conwell plans to install a propane storage tank, an emergency generator and make improvements to the interior of the building. Ms. Conwell's communications have been via e-mail to Ms. Gerken-Newcomb. It is the commission's recommendation that Ms. Conwell submit a Request for Determination of Applicability of the Wetlands Protection Act to the commission. Ms. Gerken-Newcomb agreed to communicate this recommendation to Ms. Conwell.

## **5 Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 06/18/2015 07:36:10 PM

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<sup>2</sup>This land and building has been known as the Drummers Club.