

Worthington Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
March 17, 2016

## **1 Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

## **2 Attendance**

Mary Gerken, Virginia Sowers, Jim Molyneux, Ed Lewis

## **3 Old Business**

### **3.1 Minutes of Meeting - January 21, 2016**

Ms. Sowers offered a motion that Mr. Molyneux seconded that the commission approve the minutes as presented. The commission approved the motion unanimously.

### **3.2 Wolf Property - State Highway 143**

The commission reviewed the draft letter Mr. Lewis prepared in September with consultation with Mark Stinson - DEP. Mr. Molyneux agreed to discuss the matter with the Wolfs. Assuming the Wolfs remove the culverts, no further action will be necessary.

## **4 New Business**

### **4.1 MACC Conference**

Mr. Lewis attended the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) conference at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester on March 5. The major take-away regards culverts. There are few, if any exemptions for replacing culverts. Highway departments need

to come before conservation commissions to get permits for culvert replacement. The goal is that replacement culverts will provide relatively free wildlife passage from one side of a road to another. Many culverts in service now are perched (have free drops at the downstream end) or have inverts (bottoms) that do not nearly replicate natural conditions preventing wildlife passage. Many modern culverts have a 'wide span' design with inverts replicating natural conditions. Mr. Lewis agreed to post personal notes taken at the conference.

## **4.2 Annual Report**

The secretary of the commission will prepare the report for inclusion in the Town Annual Report by the March 31 submission deadline.

## **4.3 Roadway Maintenance - Thrasher Hill Road**

Ms. Sowers reviewed her observations of roadway maintenance on the southerly side of Thrasher Hill Road near its intersection with SH-112. Discussion centered on whether or not that winter ice clearing involved wetlands protection.

No action resulted from the discussion.

## **5 Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.