

TOWN OF LANCASTER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Lancaster Community Center
May 9, 2017

Present: Chair Ken Rapoza, Nathan Stevens, Vice-Chair, Thomas Christopher, Peter Farmer, Jim Lavallee and Bonnie-Mae Smith

Absent: Ruth Anderson

Also Present: David Koonce, Conservation Agent

There being a quorum present, Chair, Ken Rapoza called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Public Hearing – Request for Determination of Applicability, Greg DeBono, 226 Fort Pond Inn Road

Present: Greg DeBono, Owner

At 7:01 PM Chair Ken Rapoza read aloud a Notice of Public Hearing thereby convening a public hearing for the purpose of considering a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by property owner Greg DeBono for proposed work within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Fort Pond at 226 Fort Pond Inn Road, further identified as Assessor's Map 5, Lot 8. The project entails re-construction of an existing stonewall.

Mr. Greg DeBono stated that the existing 21 foot long stone wall located on his property need to be replaced as stones are falling off the wall and rolling towards the water.

Mr. Jim Lavallee asked if the existing stone wall had any mortar on it or if it was dry.

Mr. DeBono stated that there is no mortar on the stone wall. Mr. DeBono stated that the wall will have base dug down about a foot with stone places on the bottom and the contractor suggested that mortar be placed on the back side of the wall to help hold it in place.

Mr. Nathan Stevens asked if the work would be done my hand.

Mr. DeBono stated that all the work would be done by hand and completed in 7 foot sections.

Mr. Thomas Christopher stated that he has been to the site and agreed that the wall is in need of repair before there are any erosion issues on the property.

Mr. David Koonce asked if the existing stone will be reused for the new wall.

Mr. DeBono stated that they will be.

Mr. Koonce went over the special conditions for the Determination and suggested to the Commission they issue a Negative Determination of Applicability with the conditions for the project.

At 7:08 PM Mr. Peter Farmer made a motion to close the public hearing for the Request for Determination of Applicability for Mr. Greg DeBono on 226 Fort Pond Inn Road. Ms. Bonnie Mae Smith seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 6-0-0.

At 7:09 PM Mr. Peter Farmer made a motion to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability for 226 Fort Pond Inn Road. Mr. Jim Lavalley seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 6-0-0.

New Business

Discussion, Bartlett Pond Parking Area

Chair Rapoza stated that MassDOT has brought in equipment and look to be paving the parking area at Bartlett Pond in the next few days.

Discussion, Snow Riders of the Nashaway Snowmobile Club

Present: Cliff McMullan and Sue Smiley

Mr. Cliff McMullan stated that a new snowmobile club has started in town and he and Ms. Sue Smiley area before the Commission to talk about the club and look into what trails can be used for snowmobiling.

Ms. Sue Smiley went through the operations of the club, including fees, insurance and passes with the Commission and explained how the state, Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts monitors all riders and clubs.

Ms. Smiley stated that the club is going around to all the town boards and committees that may have interest or land for the club to use for trials. Ms. Smiley stated that they have walked some of the Town Forest land and would be interested in some of the trails there.

Ms. Smiley stated that the goal of the club is to connect Lancaster to other neighboring clubs in Lunenburg and Harvard along with connect trails in town to Shirley and Leominster to gain access to existing trails in those areas. She asked the Commission if they had any ideas of good trails or areas that they good look into for potential snowmobile trails.

The Commission held a discussion with Ms. Smiley and Mr. McMullan regarding trials at the Cook Conservation area.

Mr. Koonce suggested that Mr. McMullan go out to the Cook Conservation area and to see what trails if any would work for snowmobiles and then come back to the Commission with the trails in mind.

The discussion will be continued to the next meeting on May 23rd.

Approval of Minutes April 25, 2017 meetings

The Commission reviewed the minutes from April 25, 2017

At 8:07 PM Mr. Thomas Christopher made a motion to approve the minutes from April 25, 2017 as written. Mr. Peter Farmer seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-2, Mr. Nathan Stevens and Jim Lavallee abstained.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the public meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Hampson
Office Manager