

Montague Conservation Commission

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MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 12, 2010

Commissioners Present: Mark Fairbrother - Chair, Deb Picking, Donna Francis, Addie Holland, Sean Werle.

Walter Ramsey – Montague Town Planner/Conservation Agent.

Approval of Minutes: July 8, 2010

Donna Francis motioned to approve the July 8, 2010 meeting minutes, seconded by Addie Holland. Sean Werle aye, Mark Fairbrother aye, Addie Holland aye, Donna Francis aye; Deb Picking abstained as she was not present for the meeting.

Discussion:

Helen Johnson, Service Forester DCR was in to introduce herself, give an update on recent Forest Cutting Plans in Montague, and discuss how her job intersects with the Wetland Protection Act and local conservation commissions.

Request for Certificate of Compliance: NOI #2007-04 by Ronald and Marilyn Rodden. The property is located at 414 Greenfield Road, Montague, MA identified as Assessors Map 42, lot 11. Site inspected by Walter with Marilyn Rodden. Included in the request is a letter from Doug MacLeay, P.E stating that the septic system is adequate and operational. Walter requested that the applicant maintain the ongoing condition that mowing of the meadow may only place between October and April. Motion to issue a certificate of compliance by Sean Werle, second by Donna Francis,

Conservation Agent updates:

NOI #2009-02 by Glen Hinson. The property is located at 12 Chestnut Hill Loop, Montague, MA, identified as Assessors Map 53 lot 46. Pre-construction meeting has taken place, attended by Walter and Sean on August 2. Preparations have been above and beyond what had been specified. Mr. Hinson was advised to proceed.

Jiang Farm RDA# 2009-02 Barn Construction update. Site Clearing began and footings for the foundation are in place. Walter, Mark, and Sean reviewed the site and established that there is no encroachment on the wetlands. Hazardous Materials have been identified on the site by MassDEP. Construction has been ceased and is under the jurisdiction of MassDEP. The applicant has acquired a Licensed Site Professional.

Richardson Road/Chestnut Hill Loop: Mt Grace Land Trust has contacted the commission to participate in the Trust's application the US Forest Service Forest legacy Program. If awarded, the grant would entitle the Conservation Commission to hold a conservation restriction on the Hinson-Bauman parcels of land off Chestnut Hill Loop. Paul Daniello from Mt Grace will provide further information at the next Conservation Commission meeting

Upcoming Business:

NOI by Jon Waidlich, Mineral Rd: Mark F. described Mr. Waidlich’s conceptual plans to construct a logging access road to an isolated, wooded portion of his property off the banks of the Millers River. Mr. Waidlich was not present at the meeting, but was seeking advice from the commission. The commission advised that because the current plan involves modest filling of the banks of the Millers River, this would require Army Corp of Engineers approval. Alternatives were discussed, but involve significant blasting and cost to the applicant.

NOI by Paul Destefano The property is located at 53 Center Street, Montague, MA, identified as Assessors Map 44 lot 52. Walter summarized a letter from Sam Lovejoy, Dept of Fish and Game notifying the Commission that he received an abutter notification for the construction of a garage at the property. At the time, the commission had not received a NOI from Destefano or the contractor Christian Boysen. Walter mentioned that the applicant will have to send out a new abutters notice once the application has been properly filed.

APR Program Application by Gendron, Amanda and David- 76 West Mineral Road identified as Map 18 Lot 6. The commission discussed its support for the application, but does not have the financial resources to support this application. Motion to support inclusion of Gendron property into APR, but withhold funding assistance by Sean Werle, second by Donna Francis. Walter will draft a letter from Conservation Commission to support the APR application.

Deb Picking announced her receiving a modest grant from NRCS after her preliminary study of vernal pools had been successful. She is looking for vernal pools in Montague to serve as study sites.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:10 PM by Addie Holland, seconded by Sean Werle, all present voted in favor.

Next scheduled meeting: September 9, 2010 at 6:30 PM

Approved by: _____ Date: _____