



MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

ONE AVENUE A · TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376 ·
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Meeting Minutes

Thursday March 8, 2012

6:30 PM

Town Hall Upstairs Conference Room

Commissioners Present: Mark Fairbrother—Chair, Sean Werle, Donna Francis and Addie Holland

Absent: Justin Fermann and Deb Picking

Staff Present: Walter Ramsey

Meeting called to order by Mark Fairbrother at 6:30 PM

Approval of Feb 9 minutes was tabled to the next scheduled meeting

- 1. Public Hearing: Request for Determination of Applicability #2012-02 by Josh Goldman Montague, MA.** Replacement of pedestrian bridge structure and decking using existing abutments in a Riverfront Resource Area (Map 43 Lot12). Bridge crosses the Sawmill River and had washed out due to a flooding incident several years prior.

Guests: Leigh Rae- 5 Center Street – Montague, MA

Leigh Rae presented plans for a new footbridge to cross the Sawmill River at the Montague Center Conservation land owned by Massachusetts Division of Wildlife and Fisheries. Existing concrete abutments will be used. The plans were prepared and stamped by a registered engineer. Massachusetts Division of Wildlife and Fisheries has approved the bridge. No stream bank will be removed or altered and no vehicles will cross the river during construction.

Motion was made by Justin Fermann to issue a negative determination (Box 2) because the work is within an area subject to the Act, but will not dredge, fill or alter the area.

Seconded by, Donna Francis. Motion passed 4-0.

Walter noted Mr. Goldman's request to have the Town cover the cost of the legal advertisement

Motion was made by Justin Fermann to authorize the Planning and Conservation Department to pay for the Greenfield Recorder Advertisement fee for Josh Goldman because this is a project for public benefit. Seconded by, Addie Holland. Motion passed 4-0.

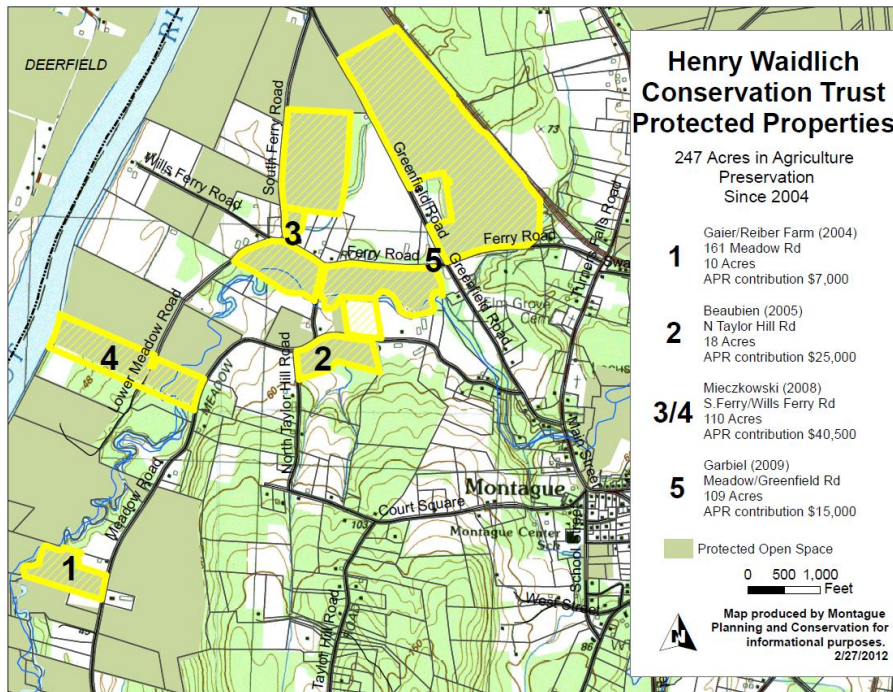
2. Henry Waidlich Conservation Fund update

Walter Ramsey reported that the fund had \$100,000 in 2000 and currently has \$19,495. In this time period, \$87,500 has been spent on contributions to the Agriculture Preservation restrictions on approximately 247 acres of land in the meadows area of Montague. The latest contribution was \$15,000 for 109 acres (APR) at the Garbiel Farm on Greenfield Road. All contributions have been used for APR.

According to the 2010 Open Space Plan, 1,227 acres of farmland are protected by CR or APR.

938 acres are in 61A (temporary protection) and 526 acres of farmland are unprotected (19%). The committee agreed that open space protection remains a priority and thus the fund shall be replenished to a level that will allow the Town to actively protect priority land.

Walter Presented the following map that summarizes the five preservation projects since 2004: (revised)



Motion was made by Sean Werle to request that Town Meeting transfer \$10,000 to the Henry Waidlich Conservation Fund from stabilization. Seconded by Addie Holland. Motion passed 4-0

Mark Fairbrother requested that Walter Ramsey prepare a 2 page information sheet for Town Meeting. He advised that keeping the material easy to read and concise would be best.

Other Business:

Mark Fairbrother requested that Walter Ramsey review a previous NOI for dredging of the Sawmill River crossing South Street in Montague Center because he noted that the area is filling with material.

Walter Ramsey reported that he has been in contact with Mark Beaubien about removal of dead trees within 200 feet of the Sawmill River (Map 42 Lot 19). He has been doing removal of dead trees and then recently the owner of the cabin there has been some cutting down near the riverfront. Walter advised him that any further clearing or altering of the area will require a filing with the Conservation Commission.

Strathmore Building 10 Debris Cleanup Walter noted that cleanup will begin this summer. He wanted to clarify that a filing that filing with the Conservation Commission will not be required because the project is exempt from the Rivers Protection Act as a historic mill site and there are no known wetlands in the area. The Commission agreed.

Motion made by Addie Holland to adjourn at 7:19 PM. Seconded by Mark Fairbrother

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:19 PM

Approved by: _____ Date: _____