

**Town of Auburn  
Conservation Commission  
May 7, 2019**

**Members present:** Jeff Porter-Chairman. Peg Donovan, Vice Chair. Diana Heaton, Ed Fehrenbach & Richard Burnham, Members. Minutes recorded by Denise Royce.

**Absent:** Stephanie Hanson, Member. Kayla Beliveau, Alternate Member.

Mr. Porter called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and introduced the Board members to everyone present. Mr. Porter moved on to the first item on the agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Alan & Carrie Cote  
488 Pingree Hill Road, Tax Map 2, Lot 32  
Discuss Wetland Buffer**

Mr. Porter asked Mrs. Rouleau-Cote to begin the discussion. Mrs. Rouleau-Cote began by saying that they built their home in 1992 which was a 28 by 32-foot house which was basically a three (3) bedroom colonial. Mrs. Rouleau-Cote went on to say that they had put an addition on in 2003 as an in-law apartment for his parents which met all setbacks. At this time, they are asking to put a 12 by 16-foot addition off the back to expand their kitchen which would be for the main house. This would be basically for a kitchen expansion to the back of the house and connect to a deck.

Mrs. Rouleau-Cote moved on to say that, they have a wetland that is located behind them that is a Level One wetland which is basically a wetland meadow. The addition would be less than 125 feet from the wetland. Discussion ensued with regard to the topography of the back of the house. Mrs. Rouleau-Cote had pictures to show the Board members the area they would like to put the addition as well as showing the distance from the wetland. Mrs. Rouleau-Cote also pointed out the woods road that goes along the property to the wetland that is also shown on the plan submitted to the Board. At this time, the Board reviewed the photos along with the plan. Mr. Cote talked about the property throughout the years and having the property surveyed when they purchased the property back in 1992. The Board reviewed the mowed area and the woods road and where the natural vegetation begins. Ms. Heaton asked if anyone still used the woods road. Mrs. Rouleau-Cote stated that they walk it pretty much every day. Mrs. Rouleau-Cote also informed the Board members that they were certain more than welcome to visit the property if they would like. Ms. Heaton asked if the area has been mowed for many years. Mr. Cote explained that, previously the area was used as a hay field and that there was an old barn

that had collapsed. Mrs. Rouleau-Cote also talked about the beavers and the beaver dam and now the beavers are no longer around and they were now in a dry phase. Mr. Cote also mentioned that it was still a wetland because of the soils.

In conclusion, Mr. Porter asked the Board members if they had any questions. Mrs. Rouleau-Cote added that, they will be going to the Zoning Board of Adjustment but the first step was to go before the Conservation Commission prior to going to zoning. Mrs. Donovan asked Mrs. Rouleau-Cote how many feet she was looking for relief from the Level One wetland. Mrs. Rouleau-Cote indicated that it was approximately 13 feet. Mr. Cote believed that they should ask for 15-feet just to be on the safe side. Mr. Cote also pointed out that they would follow best management practices during construction. The Board all agreed. Mr. Fehrenbach stated that he was an abutter and did not have any issues as he's seen it before.

**Ms. Heaton made a motion to support the 15-foot reduction from a Level One wetland. Mrs. Donovan seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Porter informed Mr. and Mrs. Cote that they have the Conservation Commissions approval. Mr. and Mrs. Cote thanked the Board members for their time.

Mrs. Rouleau-Cote also wanted to tell the Board that they did a wonderful job on the report on the site walk that they did on Nutt Road as it was well put together.

## **MINUTES**

**Ms. Heaton moved to approve the minutes of April 2, 2019 as written. Mrs. Donovan seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Porter wanted to inform everyone that Mr. Lougee is still working on the Conservation Easement and will be coming back before the Conservation Commission when he's ready. The Board discussed the other possibility which was unclear whether that would be moving forward. A brief discussion ensued with the Board members with regard to the possible Conservation Easements.

Mr. Porter also talked about Clean Up Day which went very well and that the rain held off until about 11:30am and it wasn't until they started cooking that it started to rain. With that said, he has nothing new to add unless someone from the Board had something to discuss.

## **ADJOURN**

**Ms. Heaton moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Donovan seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously and the meeting stood adjourned at 7:20 p.m.**

**The next Conservation Commission meeting is currently scheduled for Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 47 Chester Road unless otherwise noted.**