

**Town of Auburn  
Conservation Commission  
September 14, 2021**

**Members present:** Jeff Porter-Chairman. Richard Burnham, Member. Stephanie Hanson, Alternate Member. Minutes recorded by Denise Royce.

**Absent:** Peg Donovan, Vice Chair. Diana Heaton & Ed Fehrenbach, Members. Mark Ampuja, Alternate Member.

**Also Present:** Stacey Brunelle and Patsy Franklin.

Mr. Porter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and moved into the approval of the last meeting minutes for June 8, 2021. Mr. Porter elevated Ms. Hanson to a full voting member for tonight's meeting.

## **MINUTES**

**Mr. Burnham moved to approve the minutes of June 8, 2021 as written. Ms. Hanson seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Porter asked Ms. Franklin to begin the conversation that she wanted to discuss with the Board.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Patricia Franklin  
24 Noll's Farm Road, Tax Map 8, Lot 8-12  
Zoned Residential Two  
Discuss Horses Within the Wetland Buffer**

Ms. Franklin brought up an issue of an abutter who has horses that are grazing within a wetland buffer and suggested that the Board members may want to do a site walk to see what has been occurring on Noll's Farm Road. Ms. Franklin presented the Board with a portion of a plan for the abutting property that shows a 200 foot no building buffer on it. The Board reviewed the plan while Ms. Franklin continued with the concerns she has with the abutter. Ms. Franklin informed the Board that, Mrs. Rouleau-Cote, Building

Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer along with Ms. Cornett, Animal Control Officer has gone out to the property to see what was going on. Mrs. Rouleau-Cote, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer prepared a Zoning Determination (a copy of which can be found in the file). Ms. Franklin was concerned as they have been spreading lime in the wetlands and she was worried that they would try to conceal the wetlands. At this time, a brief discussion ensued with regard to the plan and Ms. Franklin pointed out the location of the Hydric-B soils that runs through the middle of the property.

In conclusion, Mr. Porter commented that, with regard to the care of the horses that would be taken care of by Ms. Cornett, Animal Control Officer and that the wetland buffer would be dealt with by Mrs. Rouleau-Cote, Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of Auburn. Again, Ms. Franklin asked the Board to possibly walk the property and the Board members stated that they could not walk someone's property without their approval and consent and that they were not wetland scientists. Mr. Porter suggested that Ms. Franklin speak with Mrs. Rouleau-Cote about any issues as she would be the best person to speak to.

Ms. Franklin thanked the Board members for their time and the discussion ended. Mr. Porter moved on to the discussion with Mrs. Brunelle.

**Jonathan & Stacey Brunelle**  
**71 Nathaniel Way, Tax Map 5, Lot 104-15**  
**Zoned Residential Two**  
**Discuss possible wetland buffer reduction**

Mrs. Brunelle began by stating that, they are looking to put a 20-foot by 14-foot shed within the 75-foot wetland buffer. Basically, Mrs. Brunelle was asking for a reduction down to 50-feet to allow a shed in the buffer. Mr. Porter asked if there was any place else to put the shed. Mrs. Brunelle mentioned going before the Zoning Board of Adjustment to seek a Variance to reduce the wetland setback from 75-feet down to 50-feet. Mr. Porter informed Mrs. Brunelle that the Conservation Commission worked with the developer when he was putting this development in and that they have already reduced the buffer from 125-feet down to 75-feet and did not believe that the Board would reduce it any further. Mr. Porter suggested that she look for a better area to place the shed. Mrs. Brunelle pointed out that, Mrs. Rouleau-Cote, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer had indicated that if they reduced the shed to 200 square feet or less, they could follow Article 5, Section 5.05(9) – *“Accessory structures of 200-square feet or less, that do not require clearing, excavation, filling or grading for the installation or placement of the accessory structures.”*

In conclusion, Mr. Porter stated that, she would have a hard time to get approval from the Conservation Commission if she wanted to keep the size of the shed. Mr. Porter also suggested that she maintain the runoff from going directly into the wetlands. Basically, the Board indicated that, if she keeps the shed to 200 square feet or less that she would have support from the Board and that they would not need to go before the ZBA. Mr. Porter reiterated the definition of Article 5, Section 5.05(9) to the applicant again. A brief discussion ensued with regard to possibly placing the shed under the deck.

Mrs. Brunelle thanked the Board members for their time and exited the meeting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Porter asked if anyone had any new business. None were noted. With that said, Mr. Porter asked for a motion to adjourn.

## **ADJOURN**

**Ms. Hanson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Burnham seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 7:41pm.**

**The next Conservation Commission meeting is currently scheduled for Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 47 Chester Road unless otherwise noted.**