

**Town of Auburn
Conservation Commission
March 5, 2014**

Members Present: Chuck Joy (chair), Allan Villeneuve, Jeff Porter, Peg Donovan, Edward Fehrenbach

Meeting opened at 7:04 p.m.

Ramos on Bunker Hill, ZBA appeal

C. Joy attended the meeting and in a detailed fashion reiterated what the Commission had discussed and the conclusions they had drawn over creating a new dwelling versus an attached dwelling on this property. He mentioned that by attaching a dwelling, the owners will need to bring a new septic out of the buffer area so that would be a plus. The ZBA read the Conservation minutes from the previous month. The separate access building was denied, now the Ramos will need to create a new plan and bring it to the Commission this time.

Wetlands clarification (from NHDES) of requests from last meeting

C. Joy researched some of the questions and requests developers posed to the Commission last month about changing wetland classifications and “creating” vernal pools. C. Joy spoke with Colin Adams of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. He asked if one has a vernal pool surrounded by a wetland would those be considered two separate wetlands. C. Adams replied, no it would be considered one wetland within which a vernal pool is found. Hence the bigger wetland and the vernal pool are considered contiguous. C. Joy also asked about the practice of “creating” vernal pools. C. Adams said when the state does allow this to be done, they ask for the “new” pool to be three times (3x) the disturbed area. For example, if a 1000 square foot vernal pool is destroyed then a 3000 square foot replacement needs created. C. Adams added that the success rate of these “created vernal pools” is very low and thus the remediation for destroying them is very high, he said it is extremely difficult for humans to successfully make a vernal pool and their destruction is almost never approved.

Battery Point Conservation Land Contact

B. Herman, the town administrator, will be the contact for Battery point conservation property in regards requests about that piece. If the Audubon would like to do something there they will speak with Herman.

Minutes from February 2014 meeting

J. Porter – motion to approve the minutes from the February 2014 meeting

A. Villeneuve – second

Motion passes.

New/Old Business

Clean –up Day

A. Villeneuve is happy to coordinate this now yearly event if the Commission is interested. Everyone was so they discussed a potential date May 3 or May 10 seemed the most likely.

Mr. Villeneuve will also see if the firemen are interested in participating as well.

Earth Day Program at the Audubon

It was determined that there would not be a representative from the Conservation Commission attending this year.

Willow Court Conservation Land

C. Joy relayed how this easement on Willow court came to be held by the town, and fell under the Commission prevue. There was some discussion about whether or not this was a good thing and how a third party might be found to hold the easement as is recommended by land trusts.

***J. Porter - Motion to adjourn
E. Fehrenbach – Second
Meeting adjourns at 7:45 p.m.***