

**Town of Auburn
Conservation Commission
Public Hearing
December 5, 2017**

Members present: Jeff Porter-Chairman, Peg Donovan, Vice Chair, Diana Heaton, Member, Richard Burnham, Alternate.

Absent: Alan Villeneuve & Ed Fehrenbach, Members. Stephanie Hanson, Alternate.

Others present: None

Mr. Porter called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and moved on to the first discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

**Doug Dinnsen
21 Hawthorne Drive, Tax Map 5, Lot 69-7
Discuss Restoration with Plantings**

Mr. Dinnsen began by saying that he was before the Board last month because he wanted to reclassify an area of wetlands on his property and the Board asked him what he would be doing in that area. Mr. Dinnsen explained that he wanted to plant fruit trees and blueberry bushes. Mr. Dinnsen asked if any of the Board members went by the property to check it out. None of the Board members went by but did review the video sent in by Mr. Dinnsen.

Mr. Porter asked Mr. Dinnsen what he was planning to finish up because there was machinery out there. Mr. Dinnsen stated that on the video it showed that the property dropped off and what he would like to do was to make it a gentle slope to the rock wall and put fill dirt to make it not so much of a drop off. A brief discussion ensued with regard to putting in fill in the area. Mrs. Donovan asked how big the area was that he was proposing to fill. Mr. Dinnsen compared it to the size of the meeting room and believed it was about three-quarters of the room about the size of his leachfield.

At this time, Mr. Dinnsen showed the Board members the video of the area to show them what the area looked like. Mr. Dinnsen pointed out on the video that he would like to only go to the rock wall and knew that he could not do anything within the easement located in the front of his property. Mr. Porter asked Mr. Dinnsen if the intent was to go up to the rock wall and nothing more. Mr. Dinnsen said yes because he couldn't really go much further than the rock wall. Mr. Porter asked about putting in an irrigation system. Mr. Dinnsen said yes but it would depend on the plant he ends up choosing so that he would be able to water the trees and the area. Discussion ensued with regard to an irrigation system and the Level 3 wetland. Mrs. Donovan asked about fertilizing. Mr.

Dinnsen stated that he got rid of his service this year and would not be fertilizing. Mr. Porter asked Mr. Dinnsen if he was looking for a blessing from the Conservation Commission. Mr. Dinnsen said yes and to reclassify the wetland. Mrs. Donovan and Mr. Porter both informed Mr. Dinnsen that they could not reclassify the wetland. Mr. Porter said that it would have to be a wetland scientist. Mrs. Donovan further added that there was a method which was called "The New Hampshire Method" where a wetland scientist would go through this 10 or 15-page document. Mr. Dinnsen asked about a Variance and Mr. Porter informed Mr. Dinnsen that, that would have to go through the ZBA and that he would have the Conservation Commission's blessing as he was not going to be doing anything dramatically impactful in that area.

Mr. Porter asked the Board what their thoughts were. Mrs. Heaton wanted to know what the distance was for the disturbance. At this time, Mr. Dinnsen presented Mrs. Heaton with the findings from Mr. Sokoloski and Mrs. Heaton reviewed the letter. Mr. Porter believed the letter addressed that it was not a vernal pool. Mr. Dinnsen said yes. Mr. Porter asked Mrs. Heaton if it mentions the square footage. Mrs. Heaton did not see anything yet regarding the square footage. Mr. Dinnsen believed it was a 25 foot by 25-foot space. Mr. Porter indicated to Mr. Dinnsen that it would be pertinent for the ZBA for the Variance. Mr. Dinnsen said that he could measure it. Mrs. Donovan reiterated to Mr. Dinnsen that, if he is going to be granted relief then he would need to know the distances. Mr. Dinnsen understood what Mrs. Donovan was saying. Mr. Porter reiterated what Mrs. Donovan said and they began discussing options. Mr. Porter talked about using a wetland scientist or look for Variance. Mr. Dinnsen thought he would like to look at getting a Variance and was told that the next meeting was not until January 2018.

Mrs. Heaton read sections of the letter from Mr. Sokoloski and further added that without knowing what level wetland it is that she did not feel comfortable making a recommendation to change it at this time. Discussion ensued with regard to the distance and Mrs. Donovan had a problem with not knowing what the distance would be. Mr. Porter suggested to Mr. Dinnsen to figure out the distance and then come back before the Conservation Commission in January with the distances and then we'll know the distances and if it's a vote to support it, then he will back it up at the ZBA. Mr. Porter asked Ms. Royce when Mr. Dinnsen would have to have his application in to be on the ZBA in January. Ms. Royce believed it would be January 2nd. Mr. Porter reiterated to Mr. Dinnsen to get an application filed for ZBA and come back before the Cons Com and we'll go from there. Mr. Dinnsen asked where and when he could get an application. Ms. Royce informed Mr. Dinnsen that she could get that for them after the Board adjourns the meeting. Mr. Dinnsen understood and thanked the Board members for their time.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Porter asked Mrs. Donovan if she wanted to file for reimbursement. Mrs. Donovan said yes. Mr. Porter said he had one as well and just hasn't put it in yet and asked Mrs. Donovan to send him the information.

Mr. Porter asked if there was any other new business. None were noted.

MINUTES NOVEMBER MEETING

Mrs. Donovan moved to accept the minutes of November 7, 2017 as written, Mrs. Heaton seconded the motion. A vote was taken; all were in favor with Mr. Burnham abstaining, and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

None noted.

ADJOURN

Mrs. Heaton moved to adjourn the Hearing. Mrs. Donovan seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously and the meeting stood adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

The next Conservation Commission meeting will tentatively be held at the Town Hall, 47 Chester Road on Tuesday, January 9, 2018.