



TOWN OF BROOKFIELD
Conservation Committee
6 Central Street
Brookfield, MA 01506

Minutes Wednesday January 20, 2010

Members present: Kenneth Cleveland
Heath W. Grimes
George LeBlanc
William Neault
John O'Leary
Timothy Simon

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Mr. O'Leary opened Continuation Public Hearing 92 Quaboag St,
Notice of Intent # 119-0119 to order at 7:10 pm**

Present were the owners: Mr. Richard Ryback, 19 woodland Dr., Centerbrook Ct. 06409 and Ms. Patricia Skeens, 381 Meandering Way, Polk City, Fl 33868 along with their Attorney Mr. Michael Meloche, 188 Main St., POB 126, Spencer Ma 01562.

Abutters present were:

Ms. Donna Welch 94 Quaboag St., Mr. Rodney Zalimas, 90 Quaboag St.
Potential buyers Mr. & Mrs. Bannish arrived at 7:20 pm.

Attorney Mr. Meloche stated to the Board members that his clients wish to sell the property at 92 Quaboag St., and is concerned as to why it is taking so long to get a vote from the Board.

Mr. O'Leary stated at last month's meeting the Board asked that plans be submitted showing the elevation of the flood plain along with compensatory storage for the septic system.

Mr. Ryback stated his property floods due to the height of the bridge in East Brookfield.

Mr. Neault stated the water level near the bridge varies from 5' to 15'.

Mr. Ryback asked if the town could remedy the situation.

Mr. O'Leary stated the bridge does not fall under the town of Brookfield.

Mr. Cleveland stated the Board asked Mr. Bannish to present plans by an engineer and has not done so. The plans presented were by Mr. Gobi sanitation engineer and not by a certified engineer.

Attorney Mr. Meloche said the Board is banning improvements to the property and no one will be able to sell their property or to replace a septic system and asked if anyone had gone before the Board of Health asked D.E.P. (Dept of Environment Protection).

Mr. Cleveland stated the Board is trying to get grants to purchase property in the flood plains to protect them.

Mr. Grimes stated the Board is only enforcing the regulations of the Department of Environment Protection states in the flood plain. The Board does not want to prevent improvements but to save the wetlands.

Mr. O'Leary stated the Board has no knowledge if anyone has approached the Board of Health.

Mr. Bannish asked who has the right to override the decision.

Mr. O'leary stated its possible D.E.P.

Mr. Meloche asked in order to proceed does the Board have to vote no?
Mr. Bannish stated FEMA does allow fill and that the Mass guidelines are more stringent and restricting new growth.

Mr. O'Leary then asked if there were anymore questions.
There were no questions asked.

Motion made by Mr. Cleveland to close the hearing at 7:35pm, 2nd by Mr. Grimes, All in Favor.

Mr. O'Leary asked the members if they wanted to deliberate.

Motion made by Mr. Cleveland to vote on approval of notice of intent or deny, 2nd by Mr. Simon.

Mr. Cleveland, vote deny

Mr. Simon, vote deny

Mr. Neault, vote deny

Mr. O'Leary, vote deny

Mr. Leblanc abstained he was not present at the public hearing.

Mr. Simon will write the denial and send a copy to Mr. Ryback owner, Mr. Bannish the applicant to D.E.P.

Approve minutes:

Dec 16,2009 motion made to accept as amended Mr. Neault, 2nd by Mr. Simon, All in Favor abstaining Mr. Leblanc.

Correspondence:

Board of Selectmen informed con/com that Mr. Levine chairman/president of QQLA would like to be put on next month's agenda.

Mr. O'Leary will add him to the agenda, and Ms. Stawski will inform the BoS and Mr. Levine by email.

Received from Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources notice of future public hearings on vegetation management plan for CSX Transportation Inc., to be held Monday, Feb. 1, 2010 at 10:30 am at Springfield City Hall Room 220.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Stawski

Diane Stawski Secretary for Conservation Commission

Minutes approved: 3/17/2010



TOWN OF BROOKFIELD
Conservation Committee
6 Central Street
Brookfield, MA 01506

Minutes Wednesday February 17, 2010

Members present: Kenneth Cleveland
William Neault
Timothy Simon

Absent: Heath W. Grimes
George LeBlanc
John O'Leary

Meeting called to order at 7:20 pm by Mr. Cleveland.

QQLA Lake Association President Dr. Peter Levine Informational

Present were: Mr. Carl Nielsen from QQLA who presented the Board with a plan from the ESS Group (Environmental Scientist Ecological & Environmental Permitting Services) who prepared the study on plants, Mr. Rudy Heller Board of Selectmen, Mr. Terrence Smith from Office of Fishing and Boating, and Mr. James Correia.

A copy of the Long Term Plant Management for Quaboag & Quacumquasit Pond was submitted by email, and one hard copy was presented to the Board. The plans were prepared by ESS Group and included the study for aquatic weed management.

Dr. Levine pres., stated the purpose is for information on the goals for long term plant management for Quaboag and Quacumquasit pond. Dr. Levine has met with adjoining towns on the matter, and in the past has applied for and received a Grant 319 with the Town of Brookfield, East Brookfield and Sturbridge. Work has been done on the boat channel and the lake has been cleaned up. In the fall there was an initiative to open South Pond Beach. Respectively QQLA can't keep up with weeds, and is very expensive. Currently a study has been done with recommendations to modify the flow barrier to improve water clarity and reduce invasive weed re-infestation. Currently ESS is testing the water from both lakes for herbicides, iron, filings.

QQLA will buy 3 floating barriers in order to contain weeds for a pilot program by trying a new approach instead of using herbicide.

Mr. Cleveland stated several years ago an attempt was made to kill bugs with grass, Mr. Nielsen stated that did not work.

Dr. Levine stated if the floating barriers work, they will apply for a Notice of Intent in the future.

Mr. Nielsen stated the plan is to be able to maintain the weeds with the barriers and keep the cost down. North Pond is 531 acres, South Pond is 225 acres.

Mr. Simon read the report and asked Dr. Levine where will you submit the NOI, and asked Dr. Levine to inform the Town of Brookfield Conservation Commission so they may be present. Dr. Levine stated Sturbridge and will keep the Town of Brookfield informed.

Mr. Simon asked Mr. Nielsen on a scale of 1 – 10 with 10 being the greatest number has the treatment in the past been effective. Mr. Nielsen said Quaboag Pond (0) and South Pond (7) with fanwort less vulnerable along with milfoil.

Mr. Simon stated his concern that there is a lot of information available and there are horror stories. There are so many department's that get involved and years later there are major problems to the eco system. A concern Mr. Simon has that the barrier may stop fish from migrating. Mr. Simon suggested that QQLA and other towns meet and have a strategy meeting with the intentions to protect the ponds.

Mr. Smith brought up a point stating the barrier would be an easy fix by creating a passageway with an opening.

Mr. Nielsen stated extending the gate by 18" would help to maintain the phosperous level in South Pond.

Mr. Correia asked if QQLA if they are planning any treatments this year. He asked to be notified when treatments are to be done, in the past Mr. Correia rents kayak and was not informed the lakes were closed, this created a problem for him. Dr. Levine stated no treatments are currently planned for this year, should something happen, it is QQLA's job to notify all the neighbors and will keep Mr. Correia informed.

Mr. Cleveland opened Public Hearing NOI file 119-0120, 151 Lake Rd South Pond/Repair Boat ramp and parking area at 8:00 pm

Present Dr. Levine president of QQLA, Mr. Carl Nielsen, Mr. Rudy Heller Board of Selectmen and Mr. James Correia.

Mr. Terrence Smith from Office of Fishing and Boating Access presented the plan along with a copy of a letter received from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife stating the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) has determined that this current proposal would not adversely affect the actual Resource Area Habitat of state-protected rare wildlife species. The Massachusetts Endangered

Species Act (MESA) this project, as currently proposed, will not result in a prohibited "take" of state-listed rare species.

Mr. Smith contacted Dept. of Environment Protection and they did not have any objections with the proposed plan.

Mr. Smith stated he is an Engineer and there has been interest on South Pond and an agreement to improve the boat ramp, creating parking for cars and boat trailers. Mr. Smith stated he is not sure of the funds that will be allocated to complete the work. Currently the proposed plans will be done in two phases.

Phase I Boat Ramp - the existing slope of the boat ramp is shallow, and would be corrected. They would install guard rails and center post down by the beach area. Current parking area is in a steep area, this would be reconstructed, widened along with the shoulder. The existing pavement would be pulverized, regraded, sides reset and a granite curb on both sides would redirect stormwater. The current gate will be removed & replaced and there would be a 25' area for turning around. This completes Phase I.

Mr. Nielsen asked about the land across the street for turning around.

Mr. Smith stated some of that land is private cannot be used.

Mr. Heller asked about the time line on Phase 1. Mr. Smith stated depends on funds allowed for the project.

Mr. Simon asked about Phase II and the time line - that includes the parking area, guard rails, parking facility. Mr. Smith stated when the company goes out for the bid it will be done for both phases. As for the time line again it depends on the amount of funds received for the project.

Mr. Simon stated he would like to make a proposal - hopefully with no additional cost. Stormwater & erosion is a major concern. Mr. Simon spoke with the Selectmen and would like to move the post about 10 - 15' back, no railing just posts in order to allow for cars to park. Mr. Simon stated by moving the cars across the street for parking, the area that remains could be used as a green area.

Mr. Heller was concerned about maintenance on the beach if guard rails are used. Mr. Smith can put in removal^opost.

Mr. Neault stated the area for parking is on a curve, and asked about putting in a crosswalk.

Mr. Smith stated that is an enforcement issue, speed bump is a highway dept. issue. Stormwater & erosion problems need to be addressed by the town. The town may consider notifying the Senator that they are in process of updating the boat ramp and beach area.

Dr. Levine QQLA pres., said that was a great idea and would draft a letter and Mr. Heller Selectmen stated they would do the same.

Mr. Simon asked Mr. Smith if he would be opposed to moving the parking of cars to across the street where the parking would be for vehicles & boat trailers. Mr. Simon stated the current on proposed plan shows cars parking

for the beach area would have to back up into the street and is concerned with children. Mr. Smith stated the parking facility will be gravel so cost would not be a factor, the proposal change would need to be approved by his supervisor.

Mr. Simon asked for a sketch of the parking area showing the changes for Phase II, Mr. Smith said he will separate the parking facility and give Mr. Simon a copy.

Mr. Smith will put Phase I out to bid if the conservation commission acts on the NOI file # 119-0120. Mr. Smith stated once the boat ramp is completed snowmobiles & atv's are prohibited from using the boat ramp.

Mr. Cleveland asked if anyone had anymore questions, there were none. Mr. Cleveland closed the public hearing at 9:40 pm.

A check for the amount of \$67.50 for the Town of Brookfield was received from Mr. Smith.

Motion made by Mr. Neault to accept the proposed plan, 2nd by Mr. Simon, All in Favor.

Mr. Simon will write the order of conditions.

New business:

Mr. Neault received a phone call for 46 Pine Lane – they need to remove a tree by the lakefront and wanted to know if anything was required to be done before cutting the tree.

Mr. Simon and Mr. Cleveland will do a site visit.

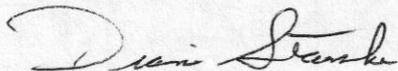
Old Business:

Correspondence to be moved to next meeting.

Minutes for Jan.6, 2010 to be approved next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Diane Stawski Secretary for Conservation Commission

Minutes approved: 3/17/2010