Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

August 2, 2011

Members present Norman Davenport

Stephen McCormick

Tom Miner

Allan Smith

Dave Thompson

Public attendees: Alain Peteroy

Rebecca Ashenden

John Marcy

Meeting opened 7:36 PM.

Unanimous approval of July 5 2011 minutes.

Agreed we would log in important mail such as Forest Cutting Plan into minutes.

Received Forest Cutting Plan from Landowner Betty Smead, Smead Hill Road, prepared by William van Buren on July 25. The plan includes 3 stream crossings. Tom will try to get more information from Alison Wright, state forester.

Presentation by Alain Peteroy of Franklin Land Trust on two Conservation Restriction applications (for 129 and <5 acres) owned by Rebecca Ashenden and John Marcy on Bassett Road. Discussion of value to town and conservation in general. Process of obtaining CR, initial and annual assessment discussed. Rebecca Ashenden and John Marcy described past use as farmland and current condition of land. Border on Dragon Brook valuable. Unanimous approval, signed municipal certification.

Alain Peteroy presented information on the APR process and the information that the ConCom needs. We commented that in recent ARP application there was no information on the land involved, no maps. Rick Chandler (Rick.Chandler@state.ma.us) is the Western Mass director of the APR program. Alain suggested we contact Chandler to discuss deficiencies.

Approved payment of MACC dues.

Tom Miner presented possible organizational changes. Spreadsheet for keeping track of projects that have come into ConCom, including RDA, NOI, building permits, and forest cutting place. All thought it was a good idea.

Building permits: Tom will check the ConCom email for building permits and forward them to us along with their disposition. Tom has the authority, as all of us have, to sign off on building permits. If he needs us to review a property he will contact one of us.

Old business. A meeting notice that Terry Mosher had sent to Jehovah Witness church regarding the public meeting on the RDA filed by Jim Gamache was returned twice by the post office. We may need to use other means to notify the church when the meeting is reconvened.

Meeting adjourned 9:25 PM.