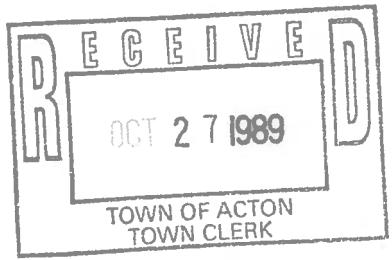


CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR
SEPTEMBER 6, 1989



MEMBERS PRESENT: Carol Place, Andrew Sheehan, Ken Dow, Bob Young, John Chalmers

CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATOR: Tom Tidman

RECORDING SECRETARY: Andrea MacKenzie

VISITORS: Daniel Danke, Stewart Kennedy, Barbara & Ira Smith, Jean Thomsin, Ruth & George Charter, Dean Charter

8:05 Ms. Place called the meeting to order.

EAGLE SCOUT PRESENTATION - David James

The Administrator reported that David James, Troop 284, has completed his Eagle Scout project in the Arboretum.

David James reported that he has built stairs from the sidewalk on Minot Avenue that lead to the boardwalk completed by Mark Preo and Jon Gabel, and he has built a sign, an observation area looking over the esker with a sign describing what an esker is. There were approximately 80 total man hours put into this project. David James also funded his own project of \$150.

The Commission thanked David James for his effort and good work.

8:15 VISITOR - Dean Charter

CELLULAR ONE - Mr. Dean Charter reported that the Town has been approached by Cellular One who is asking to lease a piece of conservation land, and place a 190' tower on the site. Cellular One originally proposed to lease property on Technology Way. The Zoning Board of Appeals denied the location of the proposed tower. Cellular One has appealed to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU). The DPU suggested looking for other sites in Acton. The Board of Selectmen have stated that such a tower will not be constructed on conservation land at their meeting of September 5, 1989. Mr. Charter stated that he will keep the Commission informed of the situation.

SOCER FIELDS

Mr. Charter also reported that the Soccer League is looking for more soccer fields in Acton. The Soccer League has approached the Town with a proposed soccer complex on town conservation land. The Soccer League would control the use, it would be strictly used for soccer, and the Town would have to maintain the fields.

Mr. Charter also noted the soccer leagues' hesitation on providing funds for the parking lot on Concord Road. The Selectmen have stated that the soccer league must pay for parking on Concord Road or they may not get the use of that field next year. The various parcels available were discussed. A single parcels at the end of Wood Lane may be suitable.

Mr. Dow moved to issue a statement to the Soccer League and the Board of Selectmen that the Commission is not willing to utilize conservation land for the establishment of formal playing fields, with the exception of the parcel of conservation land on Wood Lane.

Ms. Resor seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 aye, and 1 abstained, John Chalmers.

8:50

REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION - Arboretum Sidewalk D-89-16

Ms. Place opened the meeting under MGL Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act, and the Town of Acton Bylaws.

Tom Tidman, Conservation Administrator reported that there is a possibility that the Highway Department may have time this fall to construct the proposed sidewalk along Taylor Road.

Mr. Tidman stated at the closest point of construction will be 17' from the edge of wetlands. The proposed sidewalk will be constructed to Town standards, and will run around the wetland adjacent to Taylor Road, within site of the road. The proposed sidewalk will provide handicapped access to the Arboretum trails once the stone dust slopes to the bridge are complete.

The Commission requested that the sidewalk be 20' from the edge of wetland at its closest point, rather than the 17' proposed. Mr. Tidman agreed to amend the plans indicating the request.

9:00

Hearing no further comments, Ms. Place closed the meeting.

Mr. Sheehan moved to find the proposed work as presented to be within the Conservation Commission's jurisdiction, but will not impact the wetland, pending the submittal of the amended plans indicating the sidewalk being 20' from the edge of wetlands.

Mr. Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9:01

NOTICE OF INTENT - Kennedy Estates, 110-126 Arlington Street
75-207

Ms. Place opened the meeting under MGL Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act, and the Town of Acton Bylaws for the construction of a common drive and related detention structures.

The Commission requested proof of notification to abutters, Mr. Risotti, of Stamski & McNary provided the certified stubs verifying the notification to abutters.

Mr. Risotti stated that they propose to access eight house lots with the common drive. Grassy Pond Brook crosses the site adjacent to Arlington Street. The utilities and 450' of roadway are within 100' of the wetland. All of the proposed lots will have private septic systems, and Town water.

Mr. Risotti stated that the proposed catchbasins for the roadway will drain to a proposed retention basin on the site. There will be wetland alteration of 400 + s.f. of bordering vegetated wetlands which is necessary for the construction of a retention basin, and excavation for the gravity fed pipe. The retention basin is designed for the 10 and 100 year storm, and has an emergency riprap spillway, all of which drain to the wetlands associated with Grassy Pond Brook.

Upon query by the Commission, Mr. Risotti stated that they have filed for a variance on the sidewalk requirement by the Planning Board. If the sidewalk is required by the Planning Board, there will be approximately 3000 s.f. of wetlands filling adjacent to the Brook.

9:37 Upon the request by the Commission, the applicant agreed to continue this hearing until October 4, 1989, pending the Planning Board's decision on the sidewalk issue; because the Conservation Commission feels that, if required by the Planning Board, the sidewalk should be included in this hearing.

BUSINESS

Acton Wetlands Bylaw Rules & Regulations workshop will be on September 27, 1989.

9:38 REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION - Highridge in Nagog Park D-89-15

Ms. Place opened the meeting under MGL Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act, and the Town of Acton Bylaws for the construction of a pond.

Thad Berry stated that the driveway construction required a retention basin, but the applicant wants to create a functional wildlife pond. An ecological study has been conducted, and the site shows there is the capacity to hold water even through the dry season, as a result of the high local groundwater. The applicant asked for any input on setting up a 'wildlife pond'. Upon query by the Commission, Mr. Berry stated that they would wish to maintain a lawn area around the pond for passersby to walk around the pond. The Commission suggested that the applicant leave a natural vegetated buffer area around the proposed pond, to keep fertilizers from creating a future aquatic vegetation problem.

It is noted that the proposed project presented is not within 100' of any existing wetland.

Mr. Sheehan moved to find that the area described in the request is not an area subject to protection under the Act. Mr. Dow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

The Commission approved the minutes for June 21, July 5, and July 19.

9:52 Meeting adjourned.

Carol Place
Carol Place, Chairperson

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