

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 27, 2016
7:30 PM – Meeting Room D – Madison Town Campus**

Members Present: Chair Heather Crawford, Richard Gedney, Christine Bouchard, Rachel Klein.

Members Absent: Alex Cushing, George McManus, Clyde Burkhardt.

1) Meeting called to order: At 7:38 pm, Chairman Crawford called the meeting to order.

2) Call for additional agenda items: None.

3) Application Review: 17-05. 2076 Durham Road. Map 160, Lot 33. RU-1 District.

Owner/Applicant: 2076 Durham Road LLC. Special Exception Permit Modification to allow the construction of a barn to be used as an indoor riding rink for equestrian exercise.

The applicant was unable to attend the meeting, but the Commission was able to review and discuss the site plan. The indoor riding arena is proposed to be located where the existing outdoor riding rink is; 56' from wetland at closest. One concern discussed is that there is a proposed roof leader to a 10'x10' riprap outfall, but no gutters or downspouts in the building details. Two main questions regarding drainage: 1) How does the applicant propose to get water to the proposed roof leader? A steel roof with no gutters leaves no apparent way to use roof leader. 2) What about water on the south side of building (proposed roof leader appears to manage runoff that flows off north side of roof only)? Another question the Commission had was why not orient the building 90 degrees—this would allow the structure to be significantly farther from wetland, and also provide more room for an infiltration system alternative to riprap. The final concern was about utilities; will there be interior/exterior lighting? How will that come in?

Motion: R. Gedney moved to have Chair Crawford write a letter to P&Z expressing the concerns discussed. R. Klein seconded.

Vote: all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

At this time, R. Gedney commented that there is an issue with people not cleaning up after their dogs on the playing fields at Salt Meadow Park; H. Crawford will contact Alicia Sullivan and alert her of this problem.

4) Project/Issue Updates.

- Additional Public Education/Outreach for 2017: Facebook page, newspaper articles?
 - There was some discussion about how to get more followers on the page. Perhaps some of the other boards in Town or Land Trust could “share” the page. R. Klein suggested that they make postcards with the Commission’s Facebook information (“follow us on Facebook”) to pass out at events such as Bauer Park Festival
- Invasive Species
 - H. Crawford will forward some invasives links to C. Bouchard for the Facebook page. C. Bouchard suggested also posting articles about landscaping with native plants.
 - H. Crawford stated they still need to finish the template for the letter to inform homeowners about invasives removal.
- Hammonasset River ecosystem restoration.
 - No update. H. Crawford stated that she needs to go to Clinton Town Hall to discuss potential *Phragmites* removal collaboration.
- Upcoming educational opportunities.
 - C. Bouchard will forward opportunities for trainings/workshops that she receives to members.
 - R. Gedney stated that he sees a need to educate people (particularly those with a pool w/in 100ft of a wetland) regarding proper pool water disposal, which can be detrimental to wetlands including the Hammonasset River. Perhaps they can create a handout for the Building Department to include when they issue such permits—IWO Kuchta may be able to implement this.

5) Natural Resource Inventory: discussion of examples and assignments.

H. Crawford brought in old maps – Natural Resource Conservation Plan, Open Space Plan/Map, Future Land Use Plan, Geology, etc. The Commission discussed the different layers that have been done, what may be available digitally; many may be on State website, Kealoha has vernal pool layers. The mapping itself is less of an issue than writing; C. Bouchard made an outline from Guilford’s site, which included links to maps and easy access to sources—a good starting point. R. Gedney stated that they need to come up with a plan and start tackling one section at a time; perhaps they could get printouts and binders. C. Bouchard recommended that they type as they go—GoogleDocs may be the best way to work together on it. **Members should plan to bring in laptops to the next meeting so they can set up collaboration on this project.** H. Crawford stated that Woodstock also had a good outline – she will interweave the Woodstock outline with Guilford’s to create what is best for Madison.

6) Review and approve minutes for November 28, 2016 meeting.

The minutes were reviewed and no amendments were made.

Motion: R. Gedney moved to approve the minutes of November 28, 2016 as submitted. C. Bouchard seconded.

Vote: all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

9) Adjournment: At 8:51 pm, H. Crawford moved for adjournment; C. Burkhardt seconded.

Vote: all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Shauna Dowd

*amendments to these minutes will be noted in future minutes.