

Peterborough Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2017, Peterborough Town House, 7 p.m.

Present: John Kerrick, Matt Lundsted, John Patterson, Francie Von Mertens, Cynthia Nichols; Richard Pendleton

September's meeting minutes were approved.

Easement monitoring

Richard Pendleton, contracted by the ConCom to monitor certain conservation easement properties, reported that he has completed Long Hill Estates (Woodmaster), Fellows and Ridgewood, and the three Monahon easements were in process, assisted by John Kerrick.

Richard reported that the **Long Hill Estates** condo association (Glen Swanson spokesperson) remains concerned over the gravel pit slope easement incursion into condo easement land.

This is a reoccurring concern dating back 20 years.

Matt Lundsted will query Town Administrator Rodney Bartlett on any updates on his contact and understanding with the sandpit owner. As DPW head at the time, Rodney was involved in communication between the town and owner in 2012.

Communication with the owner will include request to remove a backhoe/loader parked on the easement slope, with staining under the loader indicating minor leakage.

Regarding **Ridgewood Heights**, condo representative Bob Hanson asked if a shed is allowed on easement land on a cleared area where a property management outfit has equipment parked in a storage tent. It appears to be a recent arrangement. Standard easement terms do not allow a shed unless ancillary to agriculture or forestry operations.

On the **Fellows easement**, Richard noted that the property has passed to the younger generation the property card does not yet indicate the change.

On the **Monahon** easements, John Kerrick will send reports to family representative Duncan Spencer. He will query LCIP/Steve Walker to confirm that a portion of a new septic system encroaching on the LCIP easement property is in keeping with the easement. The system is ancillary to agriculture, intended to serve the dairy barn, and an apparent ag-related "improvement" allowed by terms of the easement.

Richard also noted a bridge to the small island in the beaver pond and bench.

Regarding the **Daloz easement**, Francie Von Mertens reported on a likely easement infraction. Owing to a delay receiving the Intent to Cut from the Town House, hauling timber from three abutting properties across the Daloz property to a large log landing fronting Route 202 and on Daloz property had begun by the time the job was noticed and the Intent tracked down.

Swift Corwin alerted the forester that work must stop until a forestry management plan was signed by Charlie Daloz. Swift and Francie met the forester on the property, Swift checked the management plan hastily drawn up, and they walked the skid road already in use. Care had been taken to locate the road. The forester appeared to know the Daloz property well and sensitive areas to avoid.

The forester had thought the management plan could wait until the Daloz property was timbered, after the abutting three properties—Wallace, Gray (Daloz sister), and Magie—were cut.

Restoration of the two spur skid roads, to Wallace property to the south and Magie to the north, will be done following strict BMPs. Halting all operations was too extreme a step to take.

Other

Water extraction: Von Mertens reported that Upland Farms is extracting approximately 2,000,000 gallons of water a month, explaining the water tanker trucks seen in town. The operation is grandfathered according to NHDES (predating 1998), and there are no extraction limits or state oversight.

Plastics project: Von Mertens spoke with Peter Robinson at Mr. Roy's regarding paper not plastic bags. Peter explained that people who walk their dogs prefer plastic to reuse as pooper scoopers; and elderly often like an arm free to help navigate the market's tricky steps. He will speak to cashiers about not automatically offering a bag for a single item; and perhaps asking likely customers if they would prefer a box, stacked nearby; and thanking customers for bringing their own bags. He gives out colorful reusable red bags at Christmas time. He was interested in the project and eager to help.

Idea for disposable bags logo: town seal statue carrying a reusable bag.

Idea for town water bottles motto: "Suck it up; drink local!"

Neonicotinoids. Von Mertens asked people to take phone-photos of any pesticide/herbicide alert signs posted by TruGreen and other lawn treatment operations after an application (required for 24-hour period after treatment). The neonicotinoid Imidacloprid is a common application for grubs that has been banned in several countries.

Pack Monadnock access road proposed power line on upper half—18 poles crossing road at least 8 times, tree-cutting to start in November. The state and Eversource did not realize the road is one of the more popular walking/hiking trails in the region and reportedly is reconsidering alternatives. Von Mertens said there is a local effort to petition the state Parks and Recreation Division and Eversource

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