



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Town of Acushnet  
Conservation Commission  
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Robert Rocha, Chairman  
Ted Cioper, Vice-Chair  
Marc Brodeur  
Everett Philla  
Heidi Pelletier  
Evelyn Bouley

Merilee Kelly, Conservation Agent  
Christine Lagasse, Senior Clerk

**MINUTES OF September 26, 2017 CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**Present:** Robert Rocha  
Heidi Pelletier  
Marc Brodeur  
Evelyn Bouley

**Absent:**  
Ted Cioper  
Everett Philla

Merilee Kelly, Agent  
Christine Lagasse, Senior Clerk

**I. Meeting called to Order at 6:10 P.M.**

**II. Minutes for approval:**

September 12, 2017 - A motion was made by Marc Brodeur to approve the minutes of September 12. The motion was seconded by Evelyn Bouley. Motion passed 4-0.

**III. Meeting Mail: (none)**

**IV. Appointments: (none)**

**V. Old Business:**

There is still an opening on the Commission for a new member; anyone interested should send a letter of interest to either the Selectmen or Conservation Agent Merilee Kelly.

**VI. New Business:**

**Discussion with Allen Decker** (Buzzards Bay Coalition) of a conservation restriction on vacant land off the west side of South Main Street.

Allen Decker, Director of Land Protection, from the Buzzards Bay Coalition did a presentation on the Conservation Restriction for vacant land off the west side of South Main Street. The vacant land consists of four (4) parcels of property that are not abutting to each other. He wanted to re-invigorate the project. Commission members were given a copy of the Conservation Restriction along with printed maps on the properties that will be discussed.

Mr. Decker stated this project had been discussed with the Commission in the past, approximately three (3) years ago. The properties primarily are a mix of forested wetlands, forested uplands, and salt marsh. The properties are currently owned by a subsidiary of the BBC known as the Acushnet River Reserve (ARR). Mr. Decker explained that entity was set up specifically to own properties along the Acushnet River in Acushnet.

The four (4) parcels total just over thirty (30) acres in total. The Keating Woods property is approximately twenty-one and a half acres (21 ½) and the other three (3) properties make up the rest of the thirty (30) acres. ARR used New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council funding to make the acquisitions, and as part of that funding source a conservation restriction is part and parcel of the protection package.

The conservation restriction still needs to be submitted to the state for their required review. Mr. Decker said the intention of working with the Acushnet Conservation Commission as holders of the conservation restriction is to protect the natural resources of the property. Mr. Decker explained he was not looking for a vote tonight on the conservation restriction, but would like the Commission to look over the conservation restriction, and he would like to be placed on the next agenda, October 10, for a possible vote and to also answer any additional questions the Commission may have.

The Commission had a question and answer session with Mr. Decker. Some answers to questions the Commission had will be answered at the next meeting. It was recommended by Mr. Decker that any additional questions the Commission may have be forwarded to Agent Kelly and sent to Mr. Decker prior to the next meeting.

**RDA – DPW/ Quaker Lane, Mattapoisett Road & Cushing Lane**– A Request for Determination of Applicability was filed by the Department of Public Works for work on Quaker Lane, Mattapoisett Road and Cushing Lane. The applicant proposes to replace the culverts for intermittent streams which are currently dry. Plan name “Drainage Plan for the Westerly Side of Mattapoisett Road, Acushnet, MA”, dated September 7, 2017.

Dan Menard, Acushnet Highway Department Superintendent, explained the specifics of the project to the Commission. He stated on Quaker Lane he would be replacing the culvert as it is breaking apart. He will replace it with a concrete pipe and riprap at each end. On Cushing Lane he will replace the culvert and install a catch basin on the left side of the road, also, add one (1) catch basin across the road from the other one. On Mattapoisett Road there is a puddling area that keeps freezing over in the winter. Mr. Menard said that usually there is a catch basin on each side of the road, but currently there is only one (1), so one (1) additional catch basin will be installed on the other side of the road tying into the pipe that is already existing.

Mr. Rocha questioned if the neighbors had been notified of the work that is to be done. Mr. Menard said they had been. Agent Kelly asked if, on Cushing Lane after the catch basin is installed, will the water be directed into the wetlands. Mr. Menard stated the water will go across the street where it is currently going. He also stated he can add riprap on the other side of the road when the pipe is replaced. The catch basin will be paved around with asphalt. Mr. Rocha reiterated the project stating that on Mattapoisett Road a new drain goes in, connects to the culvert that is already existing with a twelve (12) inch pipe, Cushing Lane will have a new catch basin installed, with a new pipe under the road with riprap around it to slow down the velocity. Quaker Lane will get a box culvert, in order to have wildlife passage. Mr. Menard stated he will also be replacing the guardrail. Agent Kelly questioned how long it will take to complete the project. Mr. Menard said it will be completed in one (1) day.

A motion to issue a negative determination with a strong recommendation from the Commission that on Quaker Lane the project be completed with a thirty-six (36) inch box culvert and the rest of the project as proposed was made by Heidi Pelletier and was seconded by Evelyn Bouley. Motion passed 4-0.

**RDA – Acushnet DPW/ Brookside Drive**– A Request for Determination of Applicability was filed by the Department of Public Works for work on Brookside Drive. The applicant proposes to dig a drainage trench along the roadside. Plan name “Drainage Plan for the Westerly Side of Brookside Drive, Acushnet, MA”, dated September 1, 2017.

Dan Menard, Acushnet Highway Superintendent, stated the project will not involve the whole length of the street. It will only include the problem area where residents are having problems with their sump pump causing water to fill up their yard and go into the road, causing icing on the road in the winter. A two (2) feet deep pipe with stumps will be laid down. Residents along that pipe line will be able to tie-in their sump pump into the pipe. Currently only residents at 11 & 13 Brookside Drive should be tying in their sump pump into the new pipe. Agent Kelly questioned if Mr. Menard had spoken with any other neighbors. Mr. Menard said he had not, but he will be putting in a stub to the pipe just in case other neighbors need it for their sump pumps. Mr. Rocha questioned Mr. Menard if gravel will be laid under the pipe. Mr. Menard said yes, and the pipe will be buried and covered in gravel. Agent Kelly asked what type of piping will be used. Mr. Menard said it will be perforated pipe that is smooth on the inside. Agent Kelly asked if the water sits in the catch basin or does it seep out. Mr. Menard explained that it seeps out, and that particular catch basin is big; for it has an eighteen (18) inch pipe.

A motion to issue a negative determination was made by Marc Brodeur and was seconded by Heidi Pelletier. Motion passes 4-0.

**VII. Agent Updates:**

- New MACC membership cards were passed out to the Commission.
- The MACC Fall Conference will be on October 28, 2017 in Sturbridge, MA. Any Commission members wanting to attend should contact Agent Kelly.
- Discussion on the performance of the Town’s new electric cars

**VIII. Future Business:**

- The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be on Tuesday, October 10, 2017

**IX. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.**

A motion to adjourn was made by Evelyn Bouley. The motion was seconded by Heidi Pelletier. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Lagasse, Senior Clerk  
Acushnet Conservation Commission

Minutes Approved:

Hendri Pelletier  
Robert Rochy  
Evelyn Bauley

Date: 10-24-17