



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING MINUTES
ASHLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
March 12, 2018

1
2 Present: Gene Crouch (Chair) (entered at 7:12 p.m.)
3 William Moulton (Vice Chair)
4 Carl Hakansson
5 K.G. Narayana
6 Jeff Lingham
7 Cathy Van Lancker
8 Greg Wands
9

10 Absent: Maeghan Dos Anjos (Agent)
11

12 **Call to order: 7:08 P.M.**
13

14 **7:08 Review of the February 26, 2018, Meeting Minutes**

15 Ms. Van Lancker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Narayana to accept the February 26, 2018,
16 Meeting Minutes as amended. Motion passed 7-0-0. (The minutes will need to be re-voted on
17 at the next meeting because the agenda had the wrong meeting minutes listed.)
18

19 **7:23 RDA, Alan Marks, 0 Tri Street, stream status**

20 Mark Arnold (Representative- Goddard Consulting LLC.) was present for the meeting. Mr.
21 Arnold went over new watershed and stream stats information requested by the Commission.
22 He presented the four stream stat calculations (1, 2, 3 & 3a). All calculations were below the
23 0.5 square mile threshold to be perennial.
24

25 Mr. Crouch noted that the stream stats calculations had perennial flow @ 99 percentile.
26

27 Mr. Arnold stated the criteria for perennial stream in the wetland regulations.
28

29 Mr. Couch brought the point that a spring could flow continuously but have no watershed.
30

31 Mr. Arnold stated that the regulations don't go into the fine details.
32

33 Mr. Crouch mentioned that the lines on the USGS Stream Stats program was not intended as a
34 determination of a stream being perennial or intermittent. Mr. Hakansson brought up the fact
35 that a previous map that labeled the stream as perennial stream south of the site and the stream
36 flows south to north.
37

38 Mr. Arnold believed the consultant that produced the map made a mistake.
39

40 Mr. Couch stated that stream is considered perennial if it flows all that time even it doesn't
41 meet criteria under the regulations. He summarized the consultant's presentation. Mr. Lingham
42 asked about the 99 percentile duration. Mr. Couch stated that if the 99 percent duration was

43 0.01ft³/second or greater then it would meet perennial flow. He stated if the evidence shows
44 that it flows year-round then it should be perennial even if it doesn't have the water shed area.
45

46 Mr. Arnold read the regulations regarding the criteria for intermittent and perennial.
47

48 The commission discussed the ability of the commission to determine based on field conditions
49 and other contributing factors such as flow. The commission discussed the validity of stream
50 stats in running the different scenarios, the watershed maps and the extent of the drainage
51 areas.
52

53 Margy Gassel (8 Adams Street) had a question about the stream stat perennial flow rate.
54

55 Mr. Couch clarified the flow rate criteria
56

57 Beverly Lange (5 Adams Street) had a question about BVW in the area and how it contributes
58 to the stream.
59

60 Mr. Couch commented that the BVW was not part of this filing and clarified the regulatory
61 issues of perennial determination.
62

63 Rich James (29 Adams Street) had question about whether rivers drying up would be
64 considered intermittent.
65

66 Ms. Gassel had a question about the regulations and the stream shown on the USGS maps.
67

68 Mr. Couch stated DEP decided to use USGS stream map designation in identifying intermittent
69 or perennial.
70

71 Discussed was had on the making sure the commission's determination will be understood by
72 others.
73

74 Mr. Lingham made a motion seconded by Mr. Narayana to close the public meeting. Motion
75 passed 7-0-0.
76

77 Mr. Lingham made a motion seconded by Mr. Hakansson to determine the stream as perennial.
78 Motion did not pass with the vote 3 (Couch, Narayana, Hakansson) – 3(Wands, Lingham,
79 Moulton) – 1 (Van Lancker) .
80

81 Mr. Hakansson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lingham to take a revote. Motion passed 7-
82 0-0.
83

84 Mr. Hakansson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wands to make determination that the stream
85 is perennial. The motion passed 4 (Hakansson, Couch, Wands, Narayana) – 3 (Lingham, Van
86 Lancker, Moulton) – 0.
87

88 The Commission again discussed about a positive versus and negative to reflect the
89 commission determination. It was determined to render a positive determination with an
90 explanation to be clear.

91
92 Mr. Narayana made a motion seconded by Mr. Wands to make a positive determination that
93 the stream is perennial and is subject to the riverfront act. Motion passed 7-0-0.
94

95 **9:12 Public Lands Preservation Act (PLPA 5.2181)**

96 The Commission discussed the Public Lands Preservation Act.

97
98 Ms. Van Lancker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Narayana to sign a letter to State Senator
99 Karen Spilka supporting PLPA. The motion passed 7-0-0.
100

101 **9:24 Member Prerogative**

102 Mr. Hakansson discussed the video sent that day regarding the refueling of the buses on
103 Brook/Chestnut Street bus lot. It is not clear if that is what is happening. Mr. Hakansson asked
104 who is responsible for enforcing the special permit. It is believed that the building inspector
105 would be responsible. Mr. Hakansson said they are complying with the requirement to plow
106 the snow away from the Cold Spring Brook.
107

108 **9:28 Mr. Narayana left**

109
110 Ms. Van Lancker discussed about town meeting warrants from the CPC – Stone park benches,
111 Valentine property, and 128 Main Street affordable housing units
112

113 **9:32 Conservation Land Inventory**

114 Due to the Agent's absence, discussion was tabled to the next meeting.
115

116 **Documents Reviewed by the Conservation Commission on 3/12/2018**

- 117 • Conservation Commission Agenda 03-12-2018
- 118 • Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes 2-26-2018
- 119 • Supplemental Information for RDA Consideration 0 Tri Street, Ashland, dated
120 2/5/2018
- 121 • Letter of Support to State Senator Karen Spilka for the Public Lands Preservation Act,
122 S.2181

123
124 **9:36 Adjournment**

125 Ms. Van Lancker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wands to adjourn the meeting.
126 Motion passed 6-0-0.