



# Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING MINUTES  
ASHLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
June 14, 2021

1  
2 Present: Gene Crouch (Chair)  
3 William Moulton (Vice Chair)  
4 Cathy Van Lancker  
5 Carl Hakansson (left at 9:28 p.m.)  
6 Greg Wands  
7  
8 Maeghan Dos Anjos (Agent)

9  
10 Absent: Gabriel Toledo  
11

12 **Meeting held by Zoom**

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14 **Call to order: 7:17 P.M.**

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16 **7:17 Mr. Crouch reviewed the protocol for the meeting**

17  
18 **7:22 NOI, Ryan Mulcunry, 56 Hardwick Road, after-the-fact NOI for vegetative**  
19 **clearing (continued from 5/24/2021)**

20 Mr. Todd Lewis (Applicant/Owner) was not present for the hearing. The Commission tabled  
21 this to the end of the meeting.  
22

23 **7:24 NOI, Meredith and Daniel Huff, 34 High Street, sewage disposal facility**

24 Mr. Daniel Huff and Ms. Meredith Huff (Applicant/Owner), Ms. Karon Skinner Catrone  
25 (Representative), and Mr. Matthew Labrie (Contractor) were present for the hearing.  
26

27 Ms. Catrone presented the project and stated that the wetlands were flagged on April 10, 2021.  
28 Ms. Catrone explained that the proposed design has been approved by the Board of Health.  
29 Ms. Catrone also explained that the work will require the removal of seven mature trees.  
30

31 Mr. Hakansson asked if there were stonewalls on the property, and if the Scenic Bylaw came  
32 into play. Ms. Catrone said that there were no stonewalls on the property. Mr. Moulton asked  
33 for additional erosion controls along the road, and specified compost socks as the type to be  
34 used. Mr. Crouch asked if a DEP File Number has been issued. The Agent said that the File  
35 Number is 95-955.  
36

37 Mr. Wands asked about the sizes and species of the trees to be removed. Ms. Catrone said that  
38 there are large oaks, one 12" oak, one 21" pine and a few others that are out by the street.  
39

40 Mr. Moulton asked about requiring bounds at the wetlands. Ms. Catrone said that the area is  
41 currently lawn.  
42

43 Mr. Labrie explained the existing cesspool and how it would be abandoned. The Agent  
44 suggested a plan for the abandonment of the cesspool.

45  
46 Mr. Narayana, made a motion, second by Mr. Toledo to close the hearing and issue an OOC on  
47 the condition of a revised plan showing additional erosion controls as discussed. Motion  
48 passed 5-0-0. (Roll call vote: CH, CVL, GW, WM, GC).

49  
50 **7:42 NOI, Aggregate Industries, 71 Spring Street, remove sedimentation from berm,**  
51 **and restore wetlands**

52 Ms. Elizabeth Wilson (Representative – Geologist/ Brown and Caldwell), Francisco  
53 DeCastoeSilva (Plant Manager), Andrew Seaha (Applicant- Aggregate Industries), Scott  
54 Morrison (Representative- Eco Tec, Inc. Wetland Scientist), Gina Lombardi (Aggregate  
55 Industries) were present for the hearing.

56  
57 Ms. Wilson said that sediment migrated from the slope toward the [Cold Spring] Brook, where  
58 it settled at the base of the slope. Mr. DeCastoeSilva said that silt fence was installed. Ms.  
59 Wilson explained that approximately 790 square feet of sediment collected at the base of the  
60 slope. Ms. Wilson said that this partially took place in the 25' No Disturb Zone, and  
61 completely within the 200' Riverfront Area. Ms. Wilson said that the sediment will be  
62 scraped away under the supervision of a wetland scientist. Ms. Wilson explained that the silt  
63 fence will remain intact until full stabilization occurs with subsequent monitoring.

64  
65 The Commission asked about the berm and if it can be reconfigured. Ms. Wilson said that it is  
66 a perimeter berm and often times operating plants have these to delineate the limits of the work  
67 areas. Ms. Wilson further clarified that the berm is not a structural berm, but a delineation  
68 feature. Mr. Wands asked if the original berm is just gravel with no netting. Ms. Wilson  
69 confirmed that this is correct.

70  
71 Mr. Hakansson proposed a site visit. The Commission agreed and scheduled a time for Friday,  
72 June 18, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. The Agent said that they will need hard hats, vests, and safety  
73 glasses. Mr. Seaha said that they can provide these items to the members.

74  
75 Mr. K.G. Narayana (attendee to the Conservation Commission Meeting, former Conservation  
76 Commission Member) asked if they can suck the material with a [vac truck]. Ms. Wilson said  
77 that they could, but that they do not want to disturb the topsoil there.

78  
79 Ms. Van Lancker made a motion seconded by Mr. Wands to continue the hearing to June 28,  
80 2021. Motion passed 5-0-0. (Roll call vote: CH, CVL, GW, WM, GC).

81  
82 **8:05 RDA, Town of Ashland, 133 West Union Street, invasive species management**

83 Mr. Hakansson spoke to the project and said that he was involved in it, but that he is not sure if  
84 he will be in the future. Mr. Hakansson said that the property is owned by the Select Board  
85 and the decision is up to them.

86  
87 Ms. Van Lancker made a motion seconded by Mr. Hakansson to continue the hearing to June  
88 28, 2021. Motion passed 5-0-0. (Roll call vote: CH, CVL, GW, WM, GC).

89

90 **8:07 NOI, Ryan Mulcunry, 56 Hardwick Road, after-the-fact NOI for vegetative**  
91 **clearing (continued from 5/24/2021)**

92 Mr. Ryan Mulcunry (Applicant) was not present for the hearing.

93  
94 Ms. Van Lancker made a motion seconded by Mr. Wands to continue the hearing to June 28,  
95 2021. Motion passed 5-0-0. (Roll call vote: CH, CVL, GW, WM, GC).

96  
97 **8:09 Request for COC, 95-920, Town of Ashland, Town Forest, pedestrian bridge work**  
98 **on the trails**

99 Mr. Robert St. Germain (member of the Town Forest Committee) was present for the  
100 discussion.

101  
102 The Agent explained that the work was done in compliance with the OOC and the approved  
103 plans. Mr. St. Germain provided an overview of the Town Forest. Mr. Moulton explained that  
104 this OOC is from 2018, and covered pedestrian bridges, culvert replacement and a boardwalk.

105  
106 Ms. Van Lancker made a motion seconded by Mr. Wands to continue the hearing to June 28,  
107 2021. Motion passed 5-0-0. (Roll call vote: CH, CVL, GW, WM, GC).

108  
109 Mr. St. Germain also spoke to a change in plans regarding trails off of Oak Street. Mr. St.  
110 Germain stated that there is an open OOC (95-939) for a bridge and a rain garden off of Oak  
111 Street. Mr. St. Germain said that there is a section of a trail that has historically had two 2'x4  
112 boards over a ponded section of a trail off the Clark Property. Mr. St. Germain explained that  
113 people from the condos had been using that trail before the Clark Property was acquired.

114  
115 The Commission asked about the status of the OOC. Mr. St. Germain said that the boardwalk  
116 off of Oregon Road has been completed by the mountain bike club. Mr. St. Germain asked  
117 what type of permit he would need to add a small pedestrian bridge over that ponded section of  
118 the trail. Mr. Hakansson said that an amended OOC would be necessary and asked if a site  
119 visit is necessary. The Agent explained the process for amending an OOC.

120  
121 **8:27 Agent's Announcements**

122 Mr. Joe Donovan and Ms. Elaine Donovan were present. The Agent stated that they wish to do  
123 a small addition on top of four sonatubes at 511 Main Street. The Agent explained that the site  
124 is located across from Kidde Fenwall and at the base of "Willow Swamp."

125  
126 The Agent asked if the Commission if they would prefer an RDA or NOI. Ms. Van Lancker  
127 said that an RDA would suffice. Mr. Hakansson said that this may be a bigger deal with the  
128 building department, and that it is probably best to have a NOI.

129  
130 Mr. Crouch asked the Donovans if they are paying flood insurance. Mr. Donovan confirmed  
131 that they are, but it has never flooded in the years that they have lived there. Mr. Crouch  
132 explained his concerns for work in the floodplain and the requirement of compensatory storage  
133 under the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations.

134  
135 The Agent displayed the flood maps, and stated that flood plain is at 177.5', and Mass GIS has  
136 the back portion of their property at 177'. Mr. Crouch asked about the proximity to the

137 neighbor's yard. Mr. Donovan said that there is three feet beyond his proposed addition, and  
138 his neighbor does not have a problem with it. Mr. Donovan said that they are going through a  
139 hardship and the addition is necessary. The Agent asked if they need survey plans for the  
140 RDA. Mr. Crouch said that they do not need surveyed plans, and that they can use Mass GIS.  
141

142 **8:43 Review Draft EO, Peter Bemis, Legacy Farms, Hopkinton, sediment migration**  
143 **into the Hopkinton Reservoir (continued from 5/10/2021)**

144 The Commission reviewed the draft EO Baystone Development, Legacy Farms, Hopkinton.  
145

146 Ms. Van Lancker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moulton to issue the EO as amended.  
147 Motion passed 4-1-0 (CVL, WM, GW, GC. Against Mr. Hakansson).  
148

149 **8:57 Review Meeting Minutes 5/24/2021**

150 The Commission reviewed the draft Meeting Minutes.  
151

152 Ms. Van Lancker, made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hakansson to approve the minutes as  
153 amended. Motion passed. 5-0-0. (Roll call vote: CH, GW, CVL, WM, GC).  
154

155 **9:01 Member Prerogative**

156 Mr. Crouch explained that MACC sent out an email explaining the Governor must sign a law,  
157 [*An Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency*]  
158 which will allow municipalities to continue meeting virtually if they choose to. Mr. Crouch  
159 asked the Commission's preference on meeting virtually or in-person.  
160

161 Ms. Van Lancker said that she is fine either way. Mr. Crouch said he is fine either way, and  
162 the positive side of meeting virtually is that the public can attend. Mr. Hakansson said that  
163 more people can attend the meetings virtually, but that there is something lost in virtual  
164 meetings. The Agent explained that she prefers virtual meetings, because she has a long  
165 commute, and has noticed that more public attend the virtual meetings, then at the in-person  
166 meetings. Mr. Crouch said that it is great as a consultant, because it saves time for him, and  
167 money for his clients.  
168

169 The Agent asked about legal notices and how they should be posted. Mr. Crouch told her to  
170 check in with other boards and how they are posting their legal notices.  
171

172 Mr. Crouch said that he would like someone else to be Chair. Mr. Moulton said that he would  
173 like someone else to be the Vice Chair. Ms. Van Lancker said she would be willing to be the  
174 Chair, but will need help from Mr. Crouch. Mr. Crouch agreed. The Commission asked if Mr.  
175 Wands will be the Vice Chair.  
176

177 **9:13 Agent's Announcements**

178 The Agent stated that if the Commission meets back in-person, that we may have to change the  
179 current policy of how permits are submitted and how many copies are required of each. The  
180 Agent asked if the Commission liked the current way with one hard copy for the file and a pdf  
181 of everything. Mr. Hakansson said to go back to the old way requiring hard copies for  
182 everyone.  
183

184 The Agent said that Waushkum Pond has been okayed to be treated by the Natural Heritage  
185 and Endangered Species Program. The Agent said that it is being treated tomorrow. Mr.  
186 Hakansson asked the status of the Phosphorous Control Plan. The Agent said that this is  
187 handled by Mr. Evan White (Project Engineer, not present for the meeting), and she can check  
188 in with Mr. White.

189

190 **9:25 Member Prerogative**

191 Mr. Crouch allowed Mr. K.G. Narayana to speak. Mr. K.G. Narayana was present for the  
192 meeting and thanked the Commission for being there all these years, and that he plans on  
193 coming back to Town. Mr. Narayana said not to wait on him to fill the seat. Mr. Crouch said  
194 that he received a talent bank form from someone.

195

196 **9:28 Meeting Adjournment**

197 A motion was made by Ms. Van Lancker, and seconded Mr. Hakansson, to adjourn the  
198 meeting. Motion passed 5-0-0. (Roll call vote: CH, GW, CVL, WM, GC).

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200 **Documents Reviewed by the Conservation Commission on 6/ 14 / 2021**

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- Document entitled, *Agenda* dated 6/14 /2021
- Document entitled, *Meeting Minutes*, dated 5/ 24 /2021
- Plans entitled, *Septic System Construction, 34 High Street*, (sheets 1-2) dated 3/ 30 /2021
- Figure entitled, *Existing Conditions and Proposed Restoration Aggregate Industries-Northeast Region*, dated 6/ 14 / 2021
- Document entitled, *WPA Form 9- Enforcement Order* for Baystone Development, Legacy Farms, Hopkinton
- Document entitled, *WPA Form 8b- Certificate of Compliance* for 95-920 for Town of Ashland, Town Forest pedestrian bridge and trail work.

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