



TOWN OF WARE

Conservation Commission

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Meeting Minutes from
Wednesday, February 13, 2019
Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room

Commission members present: Mark Swett (Chairman), Thomas Barnes, Dennis Cote, and Kristin Rosenbeck.

Commission members absent: Dave Kopacz

Public: As taken from observations and sign-in sheet Anna Marques, Carl Oberg, Deb Oberg, Martha Klassanos, Cynthia Henshaw, John Prenosil, Joel Pentlarge, Gary Ricci, and John Clarke.

Mark Swett called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Tom Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Applications

a) NOI DEP #317-452 by Ecos Energy

- John Prenosil from JMP Environmental presented his findings from the review of the wetlands delineation, J. Prenosil agrees with the delineation as adjusted following the previous site visits.
- A. Choquette informs the Commission that the previous point of contact at Ecos Energy is no longer with the company and we now have a new contact.

Motion by M. Swett to continue NOI DEP 317-452 by Ecos Energy for one-month contingent on information from the applicant on the reason for the continuance or the Notice of Intent will be rejected due to lack of information. Seconded by K. Rosenbeck. So voted 4-0-0.

b) NOI DEP #317-447 by East Quabbin Land Trust

- C. Henshaw submitted a report authored by Mathew Burke, one of the co-authors of the Vernal Pool Field Guide.
- C. Henshaw questioned if a vernal pool review would still be necessary after the report. M. Swett said the reviewer will review Mathew Burke's report because it is part of the application being submitted.
- The process of the third Party review is explained in regards to payment.
- Mathew Burke's report explains the ruts in the trail will be a kill zone for the species that utilizes the Vernal Pool to breed, should be eliminated, and is detrimental as a whole to the vernal pool.
- Ball traps will be utilized to catch salamanders during construction
- M. Burkes report states that even with a net loss of habitat no quality habitat is loss, as logic dictates upland traffic.
- Difference between 100' buffer and 400' no disturb radius discussed.
- M. Klassanos states that normally 10% habitat loss is considered maximum allowed, this project is a 1.5% loss and the 1.5% of habitat is poor quality habitat.
- Haines Hydrogeologic Consulting submitted the only proposal for the RFR.

Motion by T. Barnes to approve Haines Hydrogeologic Consulting's proposal for the third party review of NOI DEP 317-447. Seconded by D. Cote. So voted 4-0-0.

Motion by D. Cote to continue until March 13th meeting. Seconded by K. Rosenbeck.
So voted 4-0-0

2. Scheduled Appearances

a) Joel Pentlarge

- The retaining wall at 1 Doane Rd began to collapse into Flat Brook sometime in the fall.
- T. Barnes shared pictures he took from a site visit with Anna Marques, Dave Kopacz, and Gibby St. George-Sorel.
- J. Pentlarge would like to regrade the bank to the brook and use the rock and debris as erosion controls.
- M. Swett states that a consultant and Notice of Intent would be required for that project.
- J. Pentlarge would like to do the project during the summer.
- A. Choquette will send the consultant lists from the office.

b) John Clarke

- J. Clarke has questions regarding cutting timber in a jurisdictional area on the property of the proposed solar array by Ecos Energy.
- DCR will not approve a forest cutting plan on land that has a definitive subdivision plan on it
- Property has oaks that were heavily damaged by gypsy moths and the owners would like to salvage.
- Stumps will be left
- Will not be crossing the stream
- M. Swett states that the applicant needs to present a plan to the Commission; the Commission cannot give him the plan. The Town Bylaw are located on the website and the office has a consultant list to help.

3. Old Business

a) Coy Hill Beaver Dam

- No new imagery yet

b) Wetlands Bylaw

- No discussion

4. New Business

a) Sustainable Land-use

- Lack of pollinators is detrimental to environment
- Plants that aren't treated with neonicotinoids (Roundup, etc.) most beneficial
- Remove hummingbird feeders to make pollinators go to plants
- DPWs can plant wildflowers instead of grass, Hospital Hill in Northampton did, and cut down mowing to twice a year.

b) Minutes

Motion by T.Barnes to approve October 24, 2018 minutes. Seconded by K. Rosenbeck. So voted 4-0-0.

c) Concerned Citizen

- Gary Ricci considering buying a lot on Coldbrook Dr that has wetlands on the back side.
- Has a rough drawing with line of the wetlands
- M. Swett says he would need to get the wetlands delineated to be sure
- NOI would have to be filed for construction
- Septic plan already approved
- Yard would be similar size to neighbors

5. Adjournment

Motion by D. Cote to adjourn at 9:05pm. Seconded by T. Barnes. So voted 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by Andrew Choquette

Approved on _____ Date

Members: Mark Swett
David P. Kopacz, Sr.
Dennis Cote
Kristin Rosenbeck
Thomas H. Barnes





