

Barrington Conservation Commission

Minutes for Tuesday, February 12, 2013, Meeting

School Committee Room, Barrington Town Hall

In attendance: Cyndee Fuller, Joseph Roberts, Lisa Merck, Leslie Weeden. Cyndee called the meeting to order at 7:34.

Minutes: Approval of January 8, 2013, meeting minutes needs to be moved to March meeting because a quorum was not present.

Miscellaneous: Volunteer Appreciation Day is Thursday, April 25, 2013, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Barrington High School Cafeteria.

Zoning Board/New Applications:

No new applications.

Continuation of Application #3699, Mark A. Pelson, 294 Rumstick Road, Barrington, RI, 02806, owner, Richard A. and Lisa M. Browning, 359 Rumstick Road, Barrington, RI, 02806, owners, for permission to remove the building containing existing accessory living quarters, relocate existing house and construct new single-family home. Apparently, Zoning had some issues and didn't vote, so the application has been continued to the February meeting.

Review Last Month's Applications:

Application #3702, Roberta Portugal, 17 Baron Road, Barrington, RI 02806, applicant and owner, for permission to construct a 30' x 34' second floor addition. Was approved by Conservation Commission unanimously and was thought to have been approved by Zoning.

Town Council Update:

*There were some questions from February's BCC meeting about tree cutting around town. June Speakman provided a few answers from Alan Corvi and Peter DeAngelis (below). The Conservation Commission still wants to pursue a new tree ordinance.

Q: How does National Grid decide which trees to cut down and which to simply trim? A: For trees on town roads, National Grid typically contacts Frank Charette, Barrington's tree warden, and they field check them together. (The State of RI is responsible for trees on state roads.)

Q: How are trees disposed of? A: National Grid intends to clean up the debris (not sure about the stumps, though).

Q: When trees are planted, who decides what kind? A: Typically the tree warden decides what type to plant. Cyndee Fuller asked to have input and that's fine.
Q: What is Conservation Commission's role? A: Frank Charette is the tree warden. Per our ordinance, the Conservation Commission is the Tree Commission.
Q: Can the town plant trees on private property to keep them behind the power lines? A: The town doesn't plant trees on private property. That is up to the resident. Also, town does not recommend planting where National Grid removes a tree because it will probably interfere with power lines in the future. If replanting is to be done, better to do it on public grounds (such as Chianese Park).

*White Church Bridge. David Fish from DOT gave a presentation at the Town Council meeting. Bridge will be finished in two years due to the need to be sensitive to wildlife (can't do underwater work between October and May, for example).

*A councilmember from the Bristol Town Council wants information on the Plastic Bag Ban.

*The Town Council accepted the donation of land (Plat 15, Lot 34, at end of Peck Lane) from Leonor Lezaola, which was recommended by the Conservation Commission in Cyndee's December 7, 2012, letter to Peter DeAngelis.

Conservation Commission Brainstorming Session:

Summary of Priorities for 2013 provided. Discussion of assignments:

1. Continue pursuing changes to zoning code wetland definition and prohibited activities. (Ed)
2. Monitor effect of Reusable Bag Initiative (Joseph)
Discussion about students from Roger Williams conducting survey.
3. Stormwater (David)
4. Pursue development of Tree Ordinance (David/Cyndee)
5. Speaker Series on lawn care, organic gardening, etc. (Leslie)
6. Annual Cleanups (need lead person)
7. Follow Town activities on landfill capping (Lisa)
8. Follow development issues (Nockum Hill, Sowams Nursery) (Doug)
9. Trails (Cyndee/Leslie)
10. Freshwater pollution issues (Joseph)

Cyndee mentioned the Land and Water Conservation Summit, a day-long conference at URI on Sat. March 9.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Weeden, Secretary