

Minutes Wetlands Protection Bylaw Meeting Monday, December 2, 2019 at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Barletta, Kent, Hastings, Patek, Hall, Antrim

Absent: Vanderslice, Canty Public: Bea Rogers, Lisa Scourtas

1. Examined minutes from November meeting. Motion to accept by Barletta, Seconded by Hall, all voted in favor.
2. Secretary instructed to submit minutes and agendas to Peggy Barile and Robert Wilson, webmaster.
3. Report from Barletta: our committee now has a place on the Town website where all documents are displayed. Instructions to all of us to examine the site for our committee to be sure we are satisfied with it.
4. We decided to postpone the selection of a Chairman until all members are present.
5. Barletta agreed to check with Town attorneys re management of fees collected by Con Comm.
6. Kent passed out a disclaimer to be attached to her document which displays differences between State wetlands law and our local bylaw. (See homework list below)
7. Discussion of our purpose and final report was long and detailed and included need to educate public about State, federal and local wetlands laws. We looked at p. 176 of Town Meeting minutes giving our purpose as to “report back”. We discussed having a FAQ/”Did You Know?” section on our website page and/or including information document in census/tax bill/Town website, etc.. We discussed that Con Comm has mission to educate the public. Kent agreed to seek educational documents from other towns so we would not need to reinvent the wheel. We discussed issue of clarifying issues for the public in our report, including definitions of terms and differences between our wetlands bylaw, State law, Stormwater law, floodplain overlay district.
8. Discussion of concept of putting all of Nahant under new bylaw. Discussion of our Stormwater bylaw which is ineffective because the area which triggers action is too big for our small town – ½ acre. Other towns have much smaller triggers. Kent will research areas used by other towns and report back to us. Discussion of critical need to control stormwater runoff and Barletta mentioned new changes in our MS4 permit which will force town to start taking new, rigorous actions next year. Discussion of importance of wetlands protection laws for all property owners and that property owners should consider effects on neighbors in terms of the greater good and safety of the larger community.
9. We need confirmation of status of the article last April which called for repeal of our new wetlands bylaw. Barletta said that article was eliminated when our study committee was voted into existence by the public. We discussed possibility of a new article being written by somebody to try again to repeal our new wetlands bylaw. We discussed how our report would be published and by whom and in what sequence it would be received by the public at Town Meeting, especially in the event of a new article to repeal our wetlands bylaw. We agreed that we need the Fin Comm to weigh in on this topic. Barletta agreed to ask Town Attorneys about the status of our committee with respect to Town Meeting and publication, etc.
10. Conclusion: part of our report to Town Meeting should include definitions of terms and comparisons of effects of various laws (i.e. our wetlands bylaw, State law, Stormwater law, floodplain overlay district). Educational aspect of our report needs to fine tuned at our next meeting.

11.Homework:

- **All of us** to examine the site for our committee to be sure we are satisfied with it.
- **Barletta** to check with Town attorneys re management of fees collected by Con Comm
- **Barletta** to ask Town Attorneys about the status of our committee with respect to Town Meeting and publication, etc.

- Is **Kent** ready to publish her document which displays differences between State wetlands law and our local bylaw and the disclaimer she gave to us tonight?
- **Kent** agreed to seek educational documents about laws affecting wetlands from other towns
- **Antrim** will put out a call for public comments at the next BOS meeting
- **Antrim** will create a final document of public concerns which includes the list he created in October and which are in those minutes.
- **Patek** will invite public via our agenda for our next meeting to send in their concerns and/or come to our next meeting.
- **Patek** will ask each member of our committee to start a list of FAQ's re wetlands laws.
- **Hastings** will research Zoning bylaw for us and will communicate with Canty on this subject.
- **Vanderslice**: we need the Fin Comm to weigh in on the topic of publication of our report at Town Meeting in May.

12.Next meeting: Monday, January 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Vi Patek