

**ACTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**  
**January 21, 2015**  
**7:15 PM**  
**TOWN HALL - 472 MAIN STREET**  
**ROOM 204**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Terry Maitland, Tom Arnold, Andrew Magee, Amy Green, Jim Colman, Paula Goodwin

**NATURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR & RECORDING SECRETARY:** Tom Tidman

**VISITORS:** Jim Snyder-Grant, Rene Soluk, Eric Watson, Bettina Abe

7:15 **Notice of Intent** – 7 Arborwood

*Eric Watson, applicant, for an addition to an existing house at 7 Arborwood Road, Acton, town atlas plate H3, parcel 24. The project will occur within 100 feet of wetlands.*

Eric Watson, owner and applicant, presented. A 400 square foot addition to the existing house is planned. The house was constructed in 1970. The new addition will be supported by columns and only 3 cubic feet of compensatory storage will be required for work within the flood plain. There will be a crawl space under the addition. It was noted that the work going on currently for the installation of a new septic system is in the 100 foot buffer zone and would have required a filing.

The Commission closed the hearing.

**Decision:** Mr. Magee moved to issue a standard order of conditions with the following findings:

- a. The septic system is within 100 feet of the wetland buffer zone but further away than the existing system.
- b. The wetlands setback for the addition is equal or greater than the existing house.
- c. Paragraphs 18 and 19 of the Town of Acton Wetlands bylaw will be waived.
- d. There is riverfront area on the lot, a no-name tributary to Coles Brook, and the Commission approves the work within riverfront area for a single family home.

Mr. Arnold seconded the motion; vote was unanimous.

7:30 **Presentation:** Land Steward Commission Mission Statement

Jim Snyder-Grant presented the Mission Statement to the Commission for their information. Text of the document accompanies the materials for this meeting and are found on the website, [http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-49151/020%20-%20Land%20Stewardship%20Committee%20Mission%20Statement%20\(A0166217-4xB0BA5\).pdf](http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-49151/020%20-%20Land%20Stewardship%20Committee%20Mission%20Statement%20(A0166217-4xB0BA5).pdf).

Jim Snyder Grant discussed the LSC mission statement, providing background history. Six years ago the BOS asked the LSC to compose a mission statement. Three pages long, it's mostly "boiler plate" adapted from the Acton Committee Handbook, with some small changes to reflect committee practices or committee member concerns. Some of the special considerations were regarding quorum, working on the land together and liability of other volunteers.

A number of suggestions for editing and clarification were discussed. In particular, Mr. Colman raised concern about the reference to standards of care. Mr. Snyder-Grant pointed out that the duties list was not meant to be comprehensive, but rather to include the activities the Committee was required to do. Later parts of the mission statement clarify that the committee can take on other tasks within their mission.

The Commission concluded that the document was very well written. Mr. Snyder-Grant will show the suggested red-line changes to town counsel. Mr. Snyder-Grant will inform the Commission of town counsel's response, per Mr. Colman's request.

7:40 **Notice of Intent** – 2 Taylor Road (Arboretum), Continuance

Bettina Abe presented a slide overview of the project.

The stormwater management report was presented to the Commission. Per the Commission's request, a forebay was added to the swale along the southern side of the parking lot at a point prior to where stormwater would enter the rain garden. A recap of the previous meeting's discussion concerning the alternatives analysis for the ramp to the bog boardwalk was given. If approved, plans are in place to begin construction on the bog boardwalk in late February of this year. Ms. Green asked if the rain garden would be built to the guidelines in the DEP manual and Mr. Tidman responded that it would but with no underdrain.

**Decision:** Ms. Green moved to issue a standard order of conditions with the following special condition: there will be three years of monitoring for invasives upon completion of the boardwalk and rain garden installations and a status report will be submitted annually to the Conservation Commission during that time.

Conditions 18 and 19 of the Town of Acton Wetlands by-law are waived.

Mr. Colman seconded the motion, vote unanimous.

7:45 **Discussion:** Like Structures

The commission discussed the definition of Like Structures (paragraph f.8.3 of the Town of Acton Wetlands By-law) in the context of a memorandum prepared by Mr. Colman and Mr. Tidman.

**Meeting adjourned: 9:00PM**

  
Terry Maitland  
Chairperson

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