**TOWN OF MERRIMAC**

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**4 School Street, Merrimac, Mass. 01860**

**TEL: 978-891-7238 | jsmith@townofmerrimac.com**

**Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Monday January 27, 2025**

Merrimac Public Library – Library Meeting Room

**Members Present:** Jerome Mathieu, chair; Greg Hochmuth, vice chair; Greg MacLean; Charlie Covahey; Bill Andrulitis, Mark Leger; and Jay Smith, Conservation Agent remotely

**The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM**

**Public Hearing: Notice of Intent: (continued): 103R River Road, AKA 0 River Road, Applicant: George Lay, LayCo, RE: Site cleanup and exploratory test pits, DEP# 045-0323.**

George Lay was not present. E-mail letter submitted. Mr. Hochmuth recuses himself.

*Mr. Lay formally withdrew his Notice of Intent and was accepted by the Commission (5-0).*

*Mr. Hochmuth will draft a letter about what he can still do on the property.*

**Public Hearing: Notice of Intent: 12 Merrimac Sq., Applicant Todd Schell, RE: Site work, driveway expansion and Propane gas pad, Bylaw only.**

**Bill Holt (engineer) was present to represent the applicant. Michael Seekamp did the delineation.**

*Materials submitted were reviewed and explained along with submittal of the green cards. Native species proposed. Mr. Hochmuth proposed including plantings setback for snow storage, less trees, trash in wetlands removed by applicant and a posted no disturb boundary with marker. A motion was made to issue an Order of Conditions including Mr. Hochmuth’s suggestions. The motion was approved (6-0).*

**Discussion: Jim Stepanian for 12 Shore Road, RE: construction questions.**

Mr. Stepanian was in attendance.

*The Commission went over the filing requirements and answered general questions concerning what can or can’t be done with or without a permit.*

**Discussion: Extension Request for Mill St. Bridge, DEP# 45- 314**

Mr. Sinibaldi was present requesting a three-year extension.

*Mr. Sinibaldi explained that no work has commenced due to financing delays. Final plans will be submitted if changes are needed. The Commission agreed with a unanimous decision to issue a three-year extension.*

**.**

**Discussion: Possible violation at 56 Birch Meadow Road.**

*The Commission discussed the history of the site including Selectmen involvement and DEP. Markers had been established previously for the no-disturb zone. Areal photos showed possible intrusion into the buffer zone. Mr. Smith has been in contact with the owner of the property. The Commission will look into the matter more. Continued until the next meeting.*

**Discussion: Bear Hill Bridge phosphorus removal proposal.**

*Mr. Leger (Lake Attitash Association) gave a presentation to the Commission. He explained the process of attaching bags containing alum to a chain stretching across the river. The bags will be arranged so water flow will not be impeded. Plans will include monitoring and the possibility of more bags if levels of phosphorus decline. Bags last about three to six months. Mr. Hochmuth will reach out to DEP for advice. Continued until more information is submitted.*

**Discussion: Lake Attitash Annual Report.**

*The annual report was discussed. Mr. Hochmuth made the remark that he would like to see how the native vegetation in the lake is doing and if an overabundance is affecting the ecosystem. Otherwise, the Commission was pleased with the progress made.*

**Discussion: Mosquito Control**

*Mr. Sinibaldi told the Commission that he had cleaned out the culvert and swale that is part of the overflow of Lake Attitash.*

**Discussion: COC Request 7 Bartlette St., DEP# 45- 209**

Mr. Cormier was not present. Work had not been done.

*With a unanimous decision (5-0) the Concom agreed to issue a Certificate of Compliance indicating that work never commenced.*

**Discussion: Conservation Restriction**

*Vanessa from Green Belt stated that a CR is being prepared and would like to discuss it with the Commission. The document will be sent out for review and a date will be decided for review.*

**Next Meeting: To be announced**

**Adjourned: 8:00pm.**