**TOWN OF MERRIMAC**

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

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

**Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday July 24, 2024**

Merrimac Public Library – Library Meeting Room

**Members Present:** Jerome Mathieu, Chair; Greg Hochmuth, Vice Chair; Bill Andrulitis; Arthur Yarranton; Greg MacLean; Charlie Covahey

**The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM**

**Public Hearing: Notice of Intent: 103R River Road, Applicant: George Lay, Re: Site cleanup and test pits**

The Applicant requested a continuance.

*Mr. Hochmuth motioned to continue the public hearing to the 8/28/2024 meeting. Mr. Andrulitis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.*

**Discussion: 25 River Rd Violation**

Mr. Hochmuth volunteered to draft a new letter requesting erosion control and an update on the status of the application.

**Discussion: Lake Attitash obstruction**

Mr. Mathieu presented the facts of the inquiry from a property owner concerned with floats obstructing the travel in Lake Attitash. Mr. Mathieu recused himself from the discussion. Mr. Hochmuth led the discussion with supporting information from Mass DEP that the floats would require a Chapter 91 permit. Commission members agreed to draft a letter to the property owner requesting they attend the next meeting and attach the email chain between the commission and DEP.

**Other Business: Open Space collaboration**

Lucy Ebersol (Chair, Open Space Committee) introduced herself and the committee to the Conservation Commission and discussed their role and potential collaborative projects. They are looking to open lines of communication.

**Other Business: Offer to new Agent**

Mr. Mathieu introduced Jay Smith as the new Agent.

**Community Input: 9 Little Pond Rd.**

Mr. James Paull, the applicant for 9 Little Pond Rd requested clarification on the status of his application and requested to be on the agenda at the August meeting.

**Community Input: New alternate member**

Mr. Mathieu introduced Mr. Mark Legere as someone interested in the vacant Alternate Member position in the Commission. Mr. Mathieu will be submitting a request to the Select Board.

**Discussion: The Flats – 0 W Main St**

The commission discussed the status of the application for 0W Main (The Flats).

**Discussion: Administrative approvals**

Mr. Hochmuth presented the idea of a simple permit application. The commission discussed the potential requirements for adding such a permit to the bylaws. Mr. Hochmuth will reach out to the Select Board to present the idea.

**Discussion: Greenbelt Project**

Vanessa Johnson-Hall (Director, Land Conservation Division) presented a potential purchase of land in Merrimac. The property known as Hoyt farm would be held in Conservation Restriction. Greenbelt has applied for a grant and will know by the end of the year if the purchase will go through. A discussion about the details of the CR and if the holding of the CR would be with the Commission.

**Other Business:** None

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes discussion tabled until next meeting.

**Correspondence:** None

**DEP Comments:** None

**Next Meeting: Wednesday August 28, 2024**

*Mr. MacLean motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Mr. Hochmuth seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.*