

# **t Minutes Wetlands Protection By-law Study Committee January 6, 2020**

## **6:30 p.m. Town Hall, Nahant, MA**

Present: Canty, Barletta, Kent, Hall, Patek, Vanderslice, Antrim

Absent: Hastings

Public: Bea Rogers, Lisa Scourtas, Niamh Callahan, Bill Mahoney, Christian Bauta, Emily Potts

1. Minutes from December 2, 2019 meeting accepted with Kent making motion and Hall seconding.
2. Barletta report: the topic of Con Comm fees has not been resolved and Tony will follow up. Topic of due date for Warrant articles: due end of April. We need our report done by April 15 to appear in the Fin Comm book sent out to residents. Vanderslice agreed to confirm that our report would appear in the abstract of the Con Comm and expects that our actual report would be printed in the back of the book. (Barletta also told us that as a Town committee we have the right to create an article for the warrant if we should wish to.)
3. Bill Mahoney requested that we record in the minutes that he believes that the WPB is important for everyone in town and that people should be considerate of their neighbors and the effects of changes on them and on the entire environment. Our wetlands laws enhances the state law.
4. Next month Kent will publish her document which displays differences between State Wetlands law and our Wetlands Protection By-law.
5. Kent passed around a sample educational document from Danvers about wetlands protection laws. We agreed that she should adapt this as a template for Nahant. We agreed that Con Comm should send out this document via a Town mailing, post it on the Town website. Con Comm would pay for the printing. It is a single double-sided sheet.
6. Kent provided us with a simple half sheet answering the question “What are Wetlands?” with respect to DEP definitions.
7. Antrim provided a draft spreadsheet with links answering the public’s questions about our by-law. He will complete it for next meeting.
8. Long discussion of errors in FEMA map, including examination of the big maps, with participation of public. FEMA does not have the money to redo the maps so property owners must contact Con Comm and Kent will find correct answers for each request for information.
9. Our report: introductory paragraph including the goal of separating fact from fiction and understanding the situation before the WPB was made law, and the situation afterwards. We need to answer the question: “Why do most towns adopt WPB bylaws?” We can add our own questions, e.g. definitions of terms.
10. Requests from Ms. Callahan: a. Tell property owners if there are costs for a given permit situation. b. Educate as to whom to address their questions. c. Address fear of unknown flood insurance issues.
11. Discussed having Con Comm create a pamphlet for realtors – this has come up in past meetings.
12. Extensive time towards end of meeting spent on Kent explaining facts about the wetlands maps. Yellow = 100’ buffer from FEMA line (FEMA not involved in the yellow zone). Orange = 100’ buffer from coastal boundaries.
13. Next meeting Monday, February 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Homework:

1. **Barletta** to give report on Con Comm fees.
2. **Vanderslice** to confirm our report will be included in Warrant book abstract as well as being printed in the back of it.
3. **Kent** will publish her document comparing wetlands laws.

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4. **Kent** will create educational sheet using the Danvers one as a template.
5. **Kent** will send Patek soft copy of the “What are Wetlands?” sheet.
6. **Patek** will send old flow chart explaining our bylaw to our committee members.
7. **Antrim** will invite public to our next meeting.
8. **Antrim** will finalize his Q&A spreadsheet re questions from the public.
9. **Antrim** will create outline of our report and introductory paragraph. He will send it to us online for review before our next meeting.

Adjourned 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Vi Patek