

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
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BERKSHIRE CONSERVATION COMMISSION GROUP
Meeting Notes
March 10, 2010, 7:00 PM

1) Welcome and introductions

Attendees:

Harold Brotzman, Williamstown
Sean Carr, Sandisfield
David Conklin, Otis
Terry Eucker, Berkshire Conservation Agent
Sam Gossage, Egremont
Gaetan Lachance, Sheffield
Mark Maloy, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
Emily Stockman, Plainfield
Lori Trottier, New Ashford
Mary Turek, Sandisfield
Bill Tynan, Egremont
Jane Winn, BEAT
Dale Young, MA EOEEA

2) Review of February 3, 2010 Meeting Notes

No Comments

3) Member Issues / Discussion

Egremont / Alford – a large subdivision within the two towns is being reviewed by the Commissions and BCAP. Storm water management is a large concern for the project. The consultant is doing a good job addressing the storm water concerns.

Egremont – a permit has been appealed by abutters to a project and the DEP is reviewing the situation. The conservation commission is monitoring the situation and asked BCAP to help them with enforcement. Stream crossings are causing problems with the adjacent properties.

Egremont – project is proposed and includes the crossing of a wetland. Monitoring by a consultant is also of concern. Terry has a condition for Commissions to use in an Order that allows the Commission to hire a monitor to be overseen by the commission and the cost to be paid by the applicant. Terry will post this condition on the website.

Otis – a project is on a lake and there is a question as to whether the project is on the riverfront or if it is on the pond. Terry explained that field work is needed to determine where the pond ends and the river starts and you have riverine characteristics such as unidirectional flow and horizontal zonation.

4) Training Topic: Mapping Resources to Make Work Easier

- Pictometry – Mark Maloy, BRPC GIS Coordinator, gave a demonstration on Pictometry.
 - Pictometry is available to all municipalities in the state and was distributed last year.
 - Pictometry allows the user to view aerial images from an oblique image from the cardinal directions as well as straight down. Users can also perform measurements on the images, including distance, height and area.
 - Pictometry Online will soon be available. The online version will allow anyone to view the images and those who log in can make measurements. BRPC will be the contact for account information.

- StreamStats – Terry Eucker gave a talk and presentation on StreamStats
 - A USGS topo can be a guide for determining where a stream is jurisdictional, but it has to be checked in the field for presence of wetlands. An intermittent stream with no wetlands upstream is not jurisdictional. Once an intermittent stream hits a wetland, it is jurisdictional. Even non-jurisdictional streams should be field verified that there are no wetlands - ALL the way to the source of the stream.
 - StreamStats can be used to determine if it is perennial or intermittent. Terry discussed various ways to determine if a stream is perennial or intermittent based on flow and watershed size.
 - Terry gave a demonstration on how to use StreamStats. StreamStats can be found at <http://water.usgs.gov/osw/streamstats/massachusetts.html>
 - If StreamStats provides a watershed that is believed to be incorrect, the user can modify the watershed boundary in the program to more accurately reflect the watershed.

- MassGIS – Terry Eucker gave a presentation on MassGIS
 - MassGIS has an online viewer called OLIVER, which allows the user to create maps and view various data layers, such as topos, orthophotos, wetlands and habitat.
 - MassGIS's website is <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/>

5) Other Training Events / Workshops

- a. none

6) Next Meeting

Topic: Open meeting law – April 7, 2010 7:00pm